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Princess agrees to divorce

'Her Royal Highness'
prefix to be dropped
from Diana's new title

By ANDREW PIERCE AND ALAN HAMILTON

THE Princess of Wales last night announced she had agreed to a divorce and given up her right to be called Her Royal Highness.

The agreement formally to end the marriage was made at a meeting between the Prince and Princess of Wales at her office at St James's Palace late yesterday afternoon. A spokesman for the Princess said: "The Princess of Wales will be known as Diana, Princess of Wales." End a tough day. Palace spokesman: "It would be nice if we could have a self-policing Association of society." Association: "We are informing the Queen." Informing the Queen.

A Palace spokesman said: "The Queen was most interested to hear that the Princess of Wales had agreed to the divorce. We can confirm that the Prince and Princess of Wales had a private meeting this afternoon at St James's Palace. At this meeting details of the divorce settlement and the Princess's future role were not discussed. All the details remain to be discussed and settled. This will take time." The agreed to give up title that was a gift from Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law. The Princess's press

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spokesman said: "She agreed to give it up as part of the discussions."

No discussions have been held so far about a financial settlement which is expected to run into millions of pounds.

"Lawyers began negotiations today," said her spokesman.

The Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions relating to her sons and will live at Kensington Palace. The spokesman said: "She is feeling very sad that it is all over. But she is happy that clear arrangements have been put in place for the boys. That is main thing."

The statement said: "The Queen has agreed to Prince Charles's request for a divorce. The Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions relating to the children and will remain at Kensington Palace with offices in St James's Palace. The Princess of Wales will retain the title and be known as Diana Princess of Wales."

Pressure to end the failed marriage was given added impetus shortly before Christmas when the Queen, fearing long term damage to the monarchy, wrote to both the Prince and Princess urging a speedy divorce. Her letter came after an interview given by the Princess to the BBC

Panorama programme last November in which she admitted adultery and appealed for an ambassadorial role as a "Queen of hearts".

The Princess has been in no hurry to bow to palace pressure. But the announcement clearly indicates that discussions on a settlement have been going on for at least two months.

During her Panorama interview the Princess said that she had no wish to initiate a divorce but stressed that if her husband started the divorce process she would not wholly oppose it. She also made clear that she would not "go quietly". She said: "That's the problem. I'll fight to the end, because I believe that I have a role to fulfil, and I've got two children to bring up."

The end of the royal marriage could be swift. If the couple reach agreement on property, finance and the arrangements for their children they could take the popular route to a "quickie" divorce which could be concluded within a matter of weeks.

The announcement also took Downing Street by surprise and a Government statement is expected today.

Constitutionalists and leading clerics last night expressed relief that months of damaging speculation about the 1981 marriage was finally over.

Lord St John of Bawsley said: "It very sad that this marriage, which started with so much hope and promise, is about to come to an end. I think the Prince and Princess



The Prince and Princess met at St James's Palace yesterday after the Prince returned from a Gulf War service at St Paul's Cathedral

have taken the right decision in the interests of their families. Constitutionally this has no effect on the succession to the throne nor on his right to become Supreme Governor of the Church of England, which is dependent on statute and not on matrimonial status.

"I hope that their privacy will be better respected than in the past. My hopes are greater than my expectations."

The Archbishop of Canter-

bury, Dr George Carey has already expressed his concurrence with the Queen's decision to the couple. Lambeth Palace said: "He hopes and believes this is in the best interests of all concerned."

The Rt Rev Richard Harris, the Bishop of Oxford, said: "I am relieved. It is a more honest situation and helps to clarify matters. Although it is sad, it is healthier than the previous situation.

Dimbleby that he had been unfaithful to his wife. He confessed to a long-standing affair with Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles, now herself divorced. He has made it clear that he has no intention of marrying her.

There have been discussions with the Government on whether or how the Princess should take on the role of roving ambassador. "That idea could take many guises

The whole concept would have first to be clarified by Buckingham Palace," the Foreign Office said yesterday.

Last night the Prince of Wales had two engagements — visits to an art exhibition in central London, and to a Hindu temple in Neasden, north-west London. Tonight the Princess is to go to Lancaster House to mark the end of the 125th anniversary celebrations of the British Red Cross.

June 10 set for start of Ulster talks

By NICHOLAS WOOD,
ARTHUR LEATHERLEY
AND NICHOLAS WATT

ALL-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland will begin on June 10. John Major and John Bruton announced yesterday as they intensified the pressure on the IRA to call a fresh ceasefire.

After three hours of talks in Downing Street, the two leaders unveiled a detailed package of measures, including elections, designed to revive the faltering peace process.

In a key concession to Dublin and the nationalists, Mr Major abandoned his refusal to set a firm date for all-party talks without the IRA beginning to give up its weapons.

He balanced that retreat by making elections a key plank of the countdown to negotiations. He also insisted, with firm backing from Mr Bruton, that Sinn Fein would not be

allowed to come to the conference table without a ceasefire.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, welcomed the setting of a fixed date, although he said that republicans were sceptical about the Anglo-Irish proposals because of British "bad faith" in the past.

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator in its talks with the British Government, indicated last night that Sinn Fein would be unlikely to

call on the IRA to restore its ceasefire in the immediate future. "It is much too early to make a judgment," he said. "Sinn Fein will take its own counsel over the course of the next while. There is a need for clarity. When we have received clarification, we can decide on our next move."

The latest package, set out in a joint communiqué issued by the British and Irish governments, means that the IRA

has 14 weeks in which to halt its mainland bombing campaign if its political wing is to enter the negotiations. The negotiations are intended to lead to a lasting political settlement which would be put before the people of Ulster in a referendum.

The two leaders, who have been striving to revive the peace process since the Downing Street press conference: "We will not be deflected from the timetable we have set. Confirmed on page 2, col 1

insistence that the IRA should call an immediate ceasefire. Mr Major said their agreement removed any lingering shred of justification for IRA violence and that the two governments were co-operating more closely than ever in hunting down terrorists.

Bertie Ahern, leader of Fianna Fail, the Republic's main opposition party, said in Dublin that he would be very disappointed if the IRA did not call another ceasefire soon.

Mr Major and Mr Bruton said that they would not allow themselves to be knocked off course by terrorism. The search for a lasting settlement would continue regardless of the IRA's response.

Mr Bruton said at a Downing Street press conference: "We will not be deflected from the timetable we have set. Confirmed on page 2, col 1

Leading article, page 19

Labour reaps poll rewards of Scott

By Peter Kinross

SUPPORT for Labour has risen to its highest level since last July as the Tories have been hit by strong public disapproval of their handling of the Scott report.

A MORI poll for The Times, the first to measure the full impact of the row over Scott, shows that just 8 per cent believe the Government has handled the inquiry well, and 69 per cent badly. By a more than three to one margin, the public think that the Ministers mentioned in the report should have resigned.

The poll, undertaken over the month to 14 per cent, MORI interviewed 1,877 adults at 133 ward sampling points across Britain between February 23 and 26.



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Pubs to stay open until midnight

PUBLIC houses will be allowed to stay open until midnight on Friday and Saturday as part of the Government's drive to remove tight restrictions on drinking and gambling.

Timothy Kirkhope, a junior Home Office Minister, will outline the proposals in a consultation paper to be published in the next month. The proposals will be the subject of a three-month consultation period.

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A single, shared experience is one too many for some

THIS would be, Virginia Bottomley hoped, "a single, shared experience for the whole nation". What would be? Princess Diana's divorce? Or is the phenomenon of Mrs Bottomley itself a single, shared experience for the whole nation one we have been sharing for years to mixed reviews?

The experience improves. As National Heritage Secretary Mrs B has lost the robotic eye-movements which marked her performance as Health Secretary. Relaxed and in folksy style

she had come to explain why Greenwich had been chosen to be the site of the Millennium Exhibition. This was what was to be the single, shared experience.

But not quite for the whole nation. There are pockets of resistance. Terry Dicks (C Hayes and Harlington) greeted Mrs Bottomley's enthusiasm for a "Circle of Time" exhibition with derisive boos. "There will be different interpretations of Time," Mrs B gurgled. "A time past, Time..." "Waste of Time," snorted

Dicks, Nigel Forman (C, Caversham) grinning, shook his head in despair.

"It will regenerate the cultural fabric of the country," chanted La Bottomley. Dicks rolled his eyes towards heaven and clasped his hands in mock prayer for deliverance.

"My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister," she sang, "has today announced that he has asked my Rt Hon Friend the Deputy Prime Minister to chair a co-ordinating group" This shock development was greeted by gales of laughter

MATTHEW PARFESS
POLITICAL SKETCH

from both sides of the Chamber. Mrs Bottomley was unable to suppress a girlish giggle.

Her Labour Shadow, Jack Cunningham, aimed for grandiloquence in a Geordie accent.

Sadly the attempt crashed before take-off. "This," he declared, weightily, "has been a somewhat

extenuated process." "Exterminated?" cackled Conservatives, reminding us of Tony Blair on the Today programme after a bomb "This is discreditable." New Labour, new dictionary.

But back to the Millennium. "It will combine the achievements of the past." Mrs B explained, "with the hopes of the present, to

provide inspiration for us all as we move toward the future." Mr Dicks began choking.

Also choking were the West Midlands's Jeff Rooker (Lab), Sir Norman Fowler (C) and John Butcher (C), as Sir Michael Jopling (C, Westmorland and Lonsdale) told MPs with a vicious snarl, that "Birmingham is just somewhere you go through on the way to London". Fowler choked.

And a new pocket of resistance opened up. John Biffen (C, Shropshire N) asked mild-

ly whether Mrs Bottomley could create a "millennium-free zone" to shelter "all those who do not wish to be defeated and drenched by millennium-mania" for the next three and a half years.

Bottomley treated him to a good deal less snarl than Mr Biffen treated me 14 years ago when I asked him, as Leader of the House, whether time might be found to discuss anything but the Falklands conflict for the foreseeable future.

After Mrs Bottomley, John Major arrived to tell MPs about Ireland. Tony Blair's response, by necessity unhearsed, reminded us why his soundbite chefs may be worth the keep.

In a sense, what we have now is an agreement to have discussions to agree the way forward, with at least which is an achievement, the principle of the elective process being agreed, if not the mechanism. We have that rather than, obviously, the agreement on the way forward itself, but at least it maintains momentum. How true. But how extenuated.

'We do not support you. We abhor what you are doing. We want our peace back'

IRA terrorists defy family at O'Brien funeral

By NICHOLAS WATT IN GOREY

THE IRA defied the family of Edward O'Brien, the 21-year-old Aldwych bomber, when leading terrorists attended his funeral yesterday in Gorey, Co Wexford. A week after O'Brien's parents called on the IRA to stay away, a group of republicans slipped into St Michael's Roman Catholic Church for yesterday's service.

Raymond McCartney, a convicted IRA terrorist and former hunger striker, sat uneasily on a bench in a side aisle with four other republicans, including Willie McGuinness. They were surrounded by hundreds of local people who packed the church to express their sympathy for O'Brien's parents, Miley and Margo.

Father Walter Forde, the local priest, echoed the sense of disbelief in Gorey when he said that people were trying to work out how the son of such a respectable family had been drawn into the "sordid and terrible world of terrorism". He told the congregation in the church where O'Brien had served as an altarboy: "They will try to make sense of... how his misguided idealism was hijacked, reshaped and distorted by the Godfathers of violence."

In a powerful homily, Father Forde contrasted the courage of the O'Brien family in disowning violence with the "evil world of terrorism". As the republicans sat impassively in the church, he said: "The past ten days have brought us face to face with two images of Ireland. On the one hand we have seen the dark side of this island where a tiny minority who speak for nobody but themselves hijacked our peace and disfigured our identity... The other image of Ireland...



McCartney: terrorist and hunger striker

Scores of republican supporters, including the Brixton jailbreakers Nessa Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley, and Pamela Kane, a convicted IRA terrorist, stood to attention when the coffin was wheeled from the church.

Raymond McCartney is one of the IRA's most notorious terrorists. He was sentenced to two life terms in 1977 for the murder of an RUC officer in Londonderry in January that year and for the murder of a businessman the next month. He was released in July 1994. McCartney sat with Mr McGuinness, the brother of

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator with the British Government. In 1991 Willie McGuinness was charged with IRA membership in the Republic, but was later acquitted.

Nessa Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley are currently on bail in the Republic fighting extradition to Britain where they are wanted to face charges of escaping from Brixton Prison in 1991. At the time of their alleged escape they were awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tidbury, the former head of Whitbread, and conspiracy to cause explosions.

Quinlivan and McAuley looked on as Mrs O'Brien, who was shaking with grief, was supported from the church by her younger son Garry, 14. Mr O'Brien walked next to his daughter Lorraine, 20, who carried a single red rose.

Up to 2,000 people, including scores of republicans, then joined the family for a slow half-mile walk behind the hearse to the cemetery.

Within minutes of the graveyard service republicans walked up to the grave to pay respects to their "volunteer". A member of Sinn Fein said that republicans had respected the family's wishes by not mounting a paramilitary display.

She said: "We are here in a personal capacity. We always respect the wishes of the family in these cases."

Later Father Forde criticised republicans for attending the funeral. He said: "The presence was a matter of much regret. They should have stayed away when they were told to do so by the family."



Nessa Quinlivan, centre, attending the funeral service yesterday against the O'Brien family's request that republicans stay away

Bomber muddled pm and am of timer

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA bomber Edward O'Brien blew himself up because he set the timer on the device for 10.30pm instead of 10.30am the following morning, according to police and security investigators.

O'Brien had a 24-hour timing mechanism linked to the Sib Semtex bomb which he was carrying in a bag on the No 171 bus that exploded on February 18. He is believed to have intended placing the bomb in or near the Law Courts in Canary Wharf which killed two, injured about 100 and caused damage of more than £100 million, with a series of smaller devices designed to cause fear and panic.

One such device was discovered in a telephone kiosk in Charing Cross Road in central London, and defused six days after the Docklands bombing. The intention may have been to give enough warning of the Law Courts bomb for an evacuation of thousands of people that would have



O'Brien died as he was getting off bus

shared up central London. The fact that there have been no more IRA bombs since the bus explosion is believed to be for "political" reasons and not because the terrorists' plans have been disrupted by the bomber's death and the discovery of a bomb cache in Lewisham.

The three bombs since the end of the ceasefire have already succeeded in changing the political agenda. The original reason given by the Government for delaying all-party peace talks was the refusal by the IRA to hand over any of its weapons. This has been replaced by a demand for a second ceasefire in return for talks.

One security source said: "This does not mean, however, that the IRA is not planning further bomb attacks. We

have to assume there is more than one bomb cache."

□ The driver of the bombed bus longs to thank the stranger who "saved his life", his daughter said yesterday.

Bob Newitt recalls virtually nothing of the incident. "He remembers that somebody stopped and stayed with him until the ambulance men got there and that is it," Victoria Newitt said on GMTV. "He doesn't know who the driver was as he would really just thank him himself for saving them with him because he is as he is concerned place him who literally saved his life."

Mr Newitt received blast injuries to his back and shock waves damaged his chest cavity and lungs. He left intensive care last week and is "comfortable" at University College Hospital, London.

June 10 set for start of Ulster talks

Continued from page 1

by the fact that the IRA might decide to continue their campaign. The IRA violence did not cause us to have this meeting and it is not going to cause us to alter the timetable in any way. We earnestly hope that the IRA will make it possible for Sinn Fein to take part in the negotiations. They need to reinstate the ceasefire of August 1994."

Mr Major said: "Until the ceasefire is restored, both

governments have made clear that there can be no ministerial talks with Sinn Fein." He added: "The two governments will carry forward that process irrespective of such action."

The package agreed by the two prime ministers includes "intensive multilateral consultations" between the two governments and the parties from March 4 to March 13. They will cover areas on which it has not been pos-

sible to reach agreement the format for the elections, likely to be held in late May; the shape of the all-party negotiations; and the possibility of a peace referendum north and south of the border, on the same day as the election, to demonstrate popular support for an end to violence.

As Mr Major made clear both at the press conference and in a statement to MPs later, the two governments will impose solutions if the

parties are unable to agree on these matters.

The communiqué also said

"confidence-building measures" would be required at the opening of the all-party talks. The parties would have to sign up to the Mitchell report's six principles, covering democracy and non-violence, and immediately address decommissioning of weapons.

Having undertaken the intensive consultations and the

elective process as set out

below, all-party negotiations

will be convened on Monday June 10, 1996.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the British Government's view that having taken account of the differing positions of the parties and the view of the International Body, an elective process would offer a viable direct and speedy route to all-party negotiations. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that an elective process would have to be broadly acceptable and lead immediately and without fur-

ther preconditions to the convening of all-party negotiations with a comprehensive agenda.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that details of an elective process will be for the parties in Northern Ireland, together with the British Government, to determine. The Prime Minister confirmed that the necessary legislation for a broadly acceptable elective process would be processed as rapidly as possible.

The Taoiseach, for his part

indicated that the Irish Government would support any proposal of that kind.

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed that the two Governments will review the outcome of these consultations immediately after their conclusion on 13 March. Following that, the British Government will bring forward legislation on the elective process, based on a judgment on what seems most broadly acceptable, and decisions will be announced, as appropriate...

Leaders are agreed on way ahead

The following is an extract from the Anglo-Irish communiqué issued yesterday.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach affirmed the fundamental priority they attach to securing the earliest possible inclusive negotiations should include all relevant parties which establish a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and which have shown that they abide by the democratic process.

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Details of settlement will concern future of children and a 'clean-break' financial deal

Princess may get one-off payment of about £15m

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS for the Prince and Princess of Wales are preparing to hammer out the details of a divorce settlement which will embrace the upbringing of their children as well as their own finances.

At the heart of the discussions, which could run to several weeks, will be the education of Prince William, 13, and Prince Harry, 11 and what preparation they will undertake for public life.

Anthony Julius, the Princess's lawyer, said last night: "We have reached agreement in principle. We now have to work out the drafting of the agreement, the financial terms and matters relating to the children."

As well as the Princes' upbringing, there is the question of where they will live and what access each of their parents will have to them. At present, under the terms of separation, the Prince and Princess have equal access to

LEGAL POSITION

their children. Last night's statement makes it clear that the Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions regarding them.

The "agreement in principle" between the couple was believed to have been reached after resolution of the question of the Princess's title. Now the details of her finances are to be worked out.

The settlement is likely to involve a multimillion-pound deal on the basis of a clean break between the couple. This means that the Prince would not have to make continuing payments to his former wife but would pay her a one-off settlement.

There has been speculation that a sum of £15 million would be provided, which would give the Princess a net income of £500,000 a year. Such a lump-sum payment by the Prince would depend upon financial assistance from the Queen, who would be an inter-

ested party in the future of the young Princes.

The Duchy of Cornwall provides an annual income for the Prince and Princess of an estimated £3.5 million after tax, of which the Prince spends £2 million on official expenses and £1.5 million on private expenditure. Dividend income from the Prince's £2 million Stock Exchange portfolio nets an additional £50,000 a year.

As Duke of Cornwall, the Prince controls assets worth more than £90 million. But the Duchy is in trust for future Princes of Wales and cannot sell assets to raise cash.

The Princess's personal wealth is less obvious. Her brother, Earl Spencer, inherited the bulk of the family fortune including Althorp, the ancestral home. But she does have possession of jewellery worth an estimated £20 million. However, it is unclear whether she or the Crown owns the jewels.

Once agreement is reached, the divorce will go through on the basis of consent, after separation of two years. The process will be the same as with any other couple, starting with a petition being filed in the County Court or Divorce Registry in London, and could be completed in a matter of weeks. The petition sets out the grounds why the petitioner is seeking a divorce, together with the proposed arrangements for the children.

Once divorce papers are filed, it will be for the court registrar to certify the divorce. It should be granted after he has satisfied himself that all the papers are in order. The case will then be listed to go before a district judge for a formal announcement of the decree nisi.

When the list is read out — none of the parties has to attend court — the marriage will be well on its way to being consigned to history. Some six weeks later, the decree absolute should follow, leaving both parties free to remarry.

Mr Julius, of Mishcon de Reya, heads the negotiations for the Princess. The Prince of Wales's lawyer is Fiona Shackleton, a partner with the Queen's solicitors, Farrer & Co.



The marriage that began with a kiss on the balcony will come to an end in the divorce courts. Neither is likely to attend the hearings

Outcome was inevitable after separation

By ROBIN YOUNG

SINCE their separation in December 1992, it has seemed inevitable that the Prince and Princess of Wales's marriage would end in divorce.

At first it was thought the grounds would be two years' separation, and that the divorce would be completed by the end of 1994. In 1993 the Princess's lawyers were thought to be pressing for an earlier divorce on grounds that they had, in effect, been separated for five years before the public announcement.

However, by August of that year she was recognised as having had a change of heart, because of fears that she would be frozen out by the rest of the Royal Family and would lose the public role in which she had found some solace.

Her lawyers then began to seek an "accommodation for the future" whereby she and Prince Charles could continue to lead separate lives.

It was at this time that Lord Mishcon, the Labour peer and one of the country's top solicitors, joined the Princess's legal team. It then became clear that any move for an early divorce would have to be made by the Prince: the Princess would

resist it unless she was guaranteed custody of the children and secured a public admission that the divorce was Prince Charles's responsibility. Lord Mishcon negotiated with the late Lord Goodman, then representing Prince Charles, seeking some constitutionally acceptable settlement short of divorce.

In June 1994, the Prime Minister gave the Government's full backing to an assertion by the Prince of Wales in his television interview with Jonathan Dimbleby that divorce would not stand in the way of his becoming King. The same interview contained the Prince's public admission of adultery.

Throughout 1994 there was speculation about the size of the settlement the Princess would demand for agreeing to a divorce. Figures from £15 million to £24 million, said to have been secured by the Prince's personal lawyer, Paul Butter, were quoted in newspapers, to be followed by reports insisting that she had

not received any money and was not asking for any.

In her television interview on *Panorama* in November, the Princess repeated her opposition to a divorce, emphasising that the decision lay with her husband, and appealed for a role as a public ambassador, voicing her ambition to be "a Queen of hearts". Those close to the Queen and the Prince immediately suggested that the Princess might be allowed to keep some form of royal status if the divorce went ahead.

Shortly before Christmas,

the Queen's patience ran out and it was made known that she had written to both the Prince and Princess recommending they seek a divorce.

The Prince's camp immediately let it be known that he accepted this recommendation, but the Princess did not respond, fulfilling her vow on *Panorama* that she would not "go easily".

There followed more than two months of behind-the-scenes haggling, in which the Princess's interests were represented by Anthony Julius of Lord Mishcon's firm, Mishcon de Reya. The Princess was to be satisfied about access to the children, her title, living accommodation, and her financial settlement.

She rejected suggestions that she should use her family name, Althorp House, in Northamptonshire, as her base. She also refused suggestions that she might be styled Duchess of Cornwall or Her Former Royal Highness. Her team countered with demands that she should be allowed to issue royal warrants in her own right. However, Buckingham Palace was determined to avoid any possibility of the Princess establishing a rival "court".



The strain shows on a trip to South Korea in 1992 a month before the separation

Defeat in battle to retain 'HRH'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

LAWYERS for the Princess of Wales appear to have lost their legal tussle with her husband's advisers over her right to retain her full royal title.

The matter of titles has yet to be officially agreed. Buckingham Palace said last night: "All the details on these matters, including titles, remain to be settled. This will take time."

Mishcon de Reya, acting for the Princess, wrote to her husband's solicitors earlier this month urging them to consider the possibility of her continuing as Her Royal Highness. The Princess's statement yesterday, however, said she would be known as Diana, Princess of Wales.

Lord St John of Fawsley, the constitutional expert, said the title would be "in accordance with normal usage... .

TITLE

should Prince Charles marry again then his wife would become Princess of Wales. This is the agreed usage."

He added: "A divorce does not affect the constitutional position of Prince Charles in any way. That is true, also, of his eventually becoming Supreme Governor of the Church of England."

The Princess, like the Prince, draws no money from the Civil List. However, her Kensington Palace home is publicly funded through annual grant-in-aid from the Department of National Heritage.

She is thought to be worth up to £20 million in her own right, inherited from her father Earl Spencer on his death in 1992. This is believed to earn her up to £1.5 million a year in interest, and is mainly tied up in stocks and shares and held in trust.

Size of the cash payout became a battleground for the Waleses

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Princess's financial security is one of the hardest-fought areas of the divorce negotiations. As mother of the future king she is said to have demanded enough for an office, staff and secure home. Estimates of the settlement she wanted ranged from £12 million to £15 million.

The Princess, like the Prince, draws no money from the Civil List. However, her Kensington Palace home is publicly funded through annual grant-in-aid from the Department of National Heritage.

She is thought to be worth up to £20 million in her own right, inherited from her father Earl Spencer on his death in 1992. This is believed to earn her up to £1.5 million a year in interest, and is mainly tied up in stocks and shares and held in trust.

However, it is understood that the Princess has no intention of financing her "retirement" from public life in 1994. Diana has insisted on travelling without police protection. But the estimated cost of security in 1993, met by her Duchy of Cornwall estate, this would not be enough to finance such a settlement and he would not be allowed to sell off any of the Duchy's 25,000 acres.

From it he pays the salaries and offices of both his own and the Princess's staff, and has paid tax at the normal rates since 1993.

The size of the Princess's own future office and staff depends entirely on the role she is given. She has made it very clear that she is keen to adopt an ambassadorial role for Britain. However, that is likely to entail heavy security and personnel expenditure.

Her membership of the Chelsea Harbour health and fitness club costs £3,750 a year. Vanderbilt Tennis Club

annual membership is £1549 and her personal fitness training is estimated to cost £4,160.

Skiing holidays with Princes William and Harry cost around £20,000, although many of her holidays in exotic resorts are funded by friends. Beauty treatments also cost an estimated £20,000 a year.

Any future office would be moved from its current suite of rooms within St James's Palace, which is shared by the Prince's staff.

The Princess currently spends about £160,000 a year. Of this, around £70,000 is on clothes — with designer dresses at £1500 a time — £15,000 on shoes, handbags and jewellery and £2,000 on hairdressing.

Her membership of the Chelsea Harbour health and fitness club costs £3,750 a year. Vanderbilt Tennis Club

Princess Royal to play key role

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess Royal could emerge as a key figure when the Prince of Wales becomes King, although Buckingham Palace has dismissed the idea of her acting as an official consort.

She is likely to provide strong support to her brother in a role which is both arduous and lonely. In a world without the present Queen and Queen Mother, it would seem the Princess Royal would be the natural choice to stand beside a King without a Queen.

She would be able to provide some of the glitter at state occasions that would otherwise have been provided by a Queen, accompanying him on state occasions at home and abroad. The Princess has been groomed for the part and has won respect and

admiration for her work on behalf of charities and other good causes.

She joined the elite Order of the Garter last year, a high honour marking her out as ready to take the lead as a figurehead alongside the King, and as someone born into the Royal Family knows all the intricacies of court plus the sense of duty infused into its members.

The Prince has already announced that he has no intention of marrying Camilla Parker-Bowles. Although she could in theory one day become Queen, it would take an enormous shift in public attitudes. For the foreseeable future she will remain in the background, organising the Prince's house parties and participating in his private social engagements.

The original paper



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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996

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Rugby to set rule
on narcotics test

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CLAI

'It's really so unfair. He is the man who gave me the drugs. I told the truth all through my trial.'

British teacher in Bangkok heroin case gets 25 years

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

A BRITISH woman was led weeping from a court in Bangkok yesterday to start a 25-year prison sentence for heroin trafficking. Sandra Gregory, 30, cried: "Please tell my mum I'm sorry. I want my mum." before she was taken back to Lard Yao women's prison, known as the Bangkok Hilton.

Robert Lock, the man Gregory claimed had given her the heroin and \$1,000 (£650) to take it to Tokyo, was found not guilty by the same court. Gregory called him a bastard, adding: "It's not fair. It's really terrible for my parents. He is the man who gave me the drugs. He is the one who lied. I told the truth all through my trial."

Mr Lock, 30, visibly delighted, was told he was not yet free to go. He was ordered to be detained pending a decision by the public prosecutor within the next month whether to appeal against the verdict. If the appeal court reverses the verdict, Mr Lock could face the death sentence.

In Britain, his mother, Linda, said on hearing that he had been cleared: "This is just fantastic. We were expecting the worst. I am really so relieved. Now we have to wait to see what the prosecution will do. I do not feel sorry for Sandra. She tried to get my son into trouble. She got what she deserved."

Mr Lock said he wanted to thank all connected with his case. "I want to thank my mum and Prisoners Abroad in England especially." Prisoners Abroad is a charity that tries to help Britons in foreign jails.

The news for Gregory, a teacher from Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, was not all bad. A British Embassy spokesman said she would be entitled to a transfer back to jail in Britain after serving one more year, having already been incarcerated for three years in Bangkok while the trial dragged on.

There was mayhem outside the court, as police armed with sub-machineguns tried unsuccessfully to break up press and television crews anxious to hear what Gregory had to say.

Afterwards, both prisoners were taken away. Mr Lock to Khlong Prem men's prison, where he has been accused of possessing 0.75 grams of heroin.

Gregory, who pleaded guilty to trafficking 89 grams of heroin, received the lightest possible sentence. She and Mr Lock were arrested at Bangkok airport in February 1993 as they checked in for a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight to Tokyo. Police had been tipped off by a woman agent known as Kanchana — "Pure Gold" — employed in the British Embassy's drug liaison office. Gregory was carrying the heroin packed in condoms inside her.

Gregory told the court that she had fallen ill with dengue fever after two years spent teaching English in Bangkok and needed the money urgently for a ticket home. She said that Mr Lock, from Cambridge, had offered her \$1,000 to carry the drugs for him. Mr Lock, however, told the court that he hardly knew Gregory. They had met on a train on the way to the airport, he said.

It emerged in court that the Thai police had been asked to watch out for Mr Lock, not for Gregory, who was previously unknown to them or to drugs investigators. She was not suspected until she arrived with Mr Lock.

The Foreign Office has been criticised by campaigners for Mr Lock in Britain, led by his mother and the Labour MP for Cambridge, Anne Campbell. They said the Government should not tip off the Thais about British citizens. They claimed that, with such little evidence against him, Mr Lock would never have been charged in Britain.

The British Embassy in Bangkok said it was withholding comment about the outcome of the case pending the prosecution's decision on whether to appeal. In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said no decision had been made about intervening on Gregory's behalf.

Asked whether she was hopeful of such a move, Gregory said: "Not a hope in hell. They have told me they won't." However, her lawyer said he hoped she might be included in a royal amnesty expected later this year to mark King Bhumibol Adulyadej's fifth year on the throne.

Gregory described conditions at the "Bangkok Hilton" as terrible. "There are 2,300 of us there. We all sleep on the floor." Her colleagues on drugs charges include six South Africans, more than 20 Americans, Swedes, Danes,

French, German, and large numbers from Nigeria and Ghana.

The prisoners are woken at 6am and are given a breakfast of rice soup with a piece of fish head, buffalo meat or chicken. Afterwards they can do various jobs: Gregory works in the bakery.

In her dormitory more than 100 women sleep head to toe, side by side. There are no beds but prisoners can buy a thin roll-up mattress.

Gregory has had all privileges withdrawn and visitors turned away after a BBC reporter attempted to smuggle a tape recorder into the prison. Gregory said after yesterday's hearing: "They are giving me a terrible time. I don't know why the journalist did it. What did he think it would have on me?"



Sandra Gregory, with tears in her eyes, is taken away from court in Bangkok yesterday after being told of her sentence for heroin trafficking



Lock: cleared but still being held in prison

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Rugby to set rules on narcotics tests

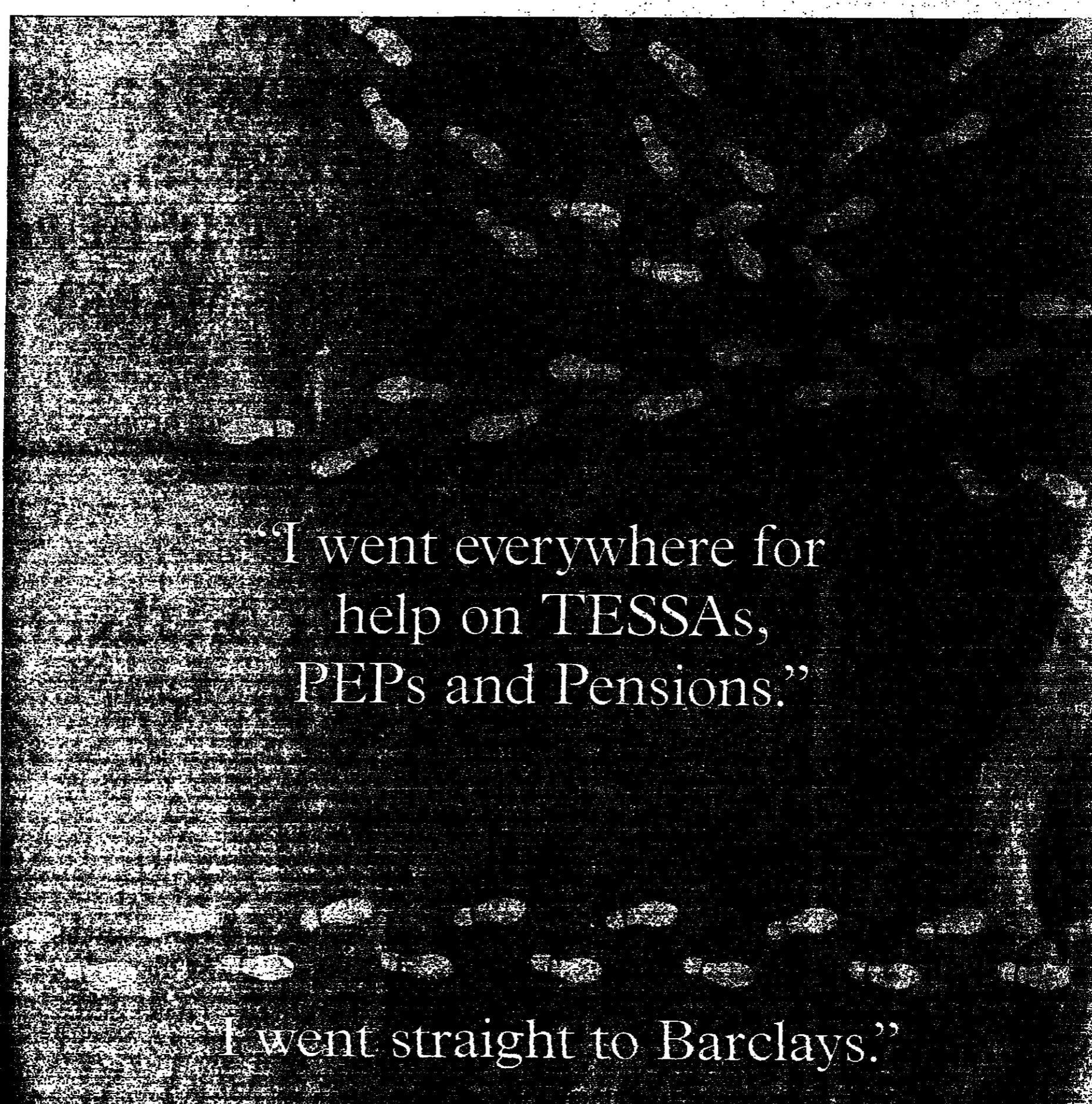
BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PUPILS at Rugby School will be tested for drugs if teachers notice a slump in their performance in the classroom or on the sports field under plans being put to parents.

Next month, the 430-year-old school in Warwickshire will consider asking parents to sanction urine tests if their children are suspected of taking banned substances. It will also consider scrapping its policy of expelling pupils automatically for drug offences.

Random testing has been ruled out, but a statement said that parents would be approached if drug use was suspected "following signs of marked deterioration of performance in work and games, or the display of other drug-related symptoms".

Rugby, where boarders' fees are £12,720 a year, is one of several leading schools considering the introduction of drug testing after a review.



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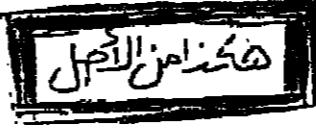
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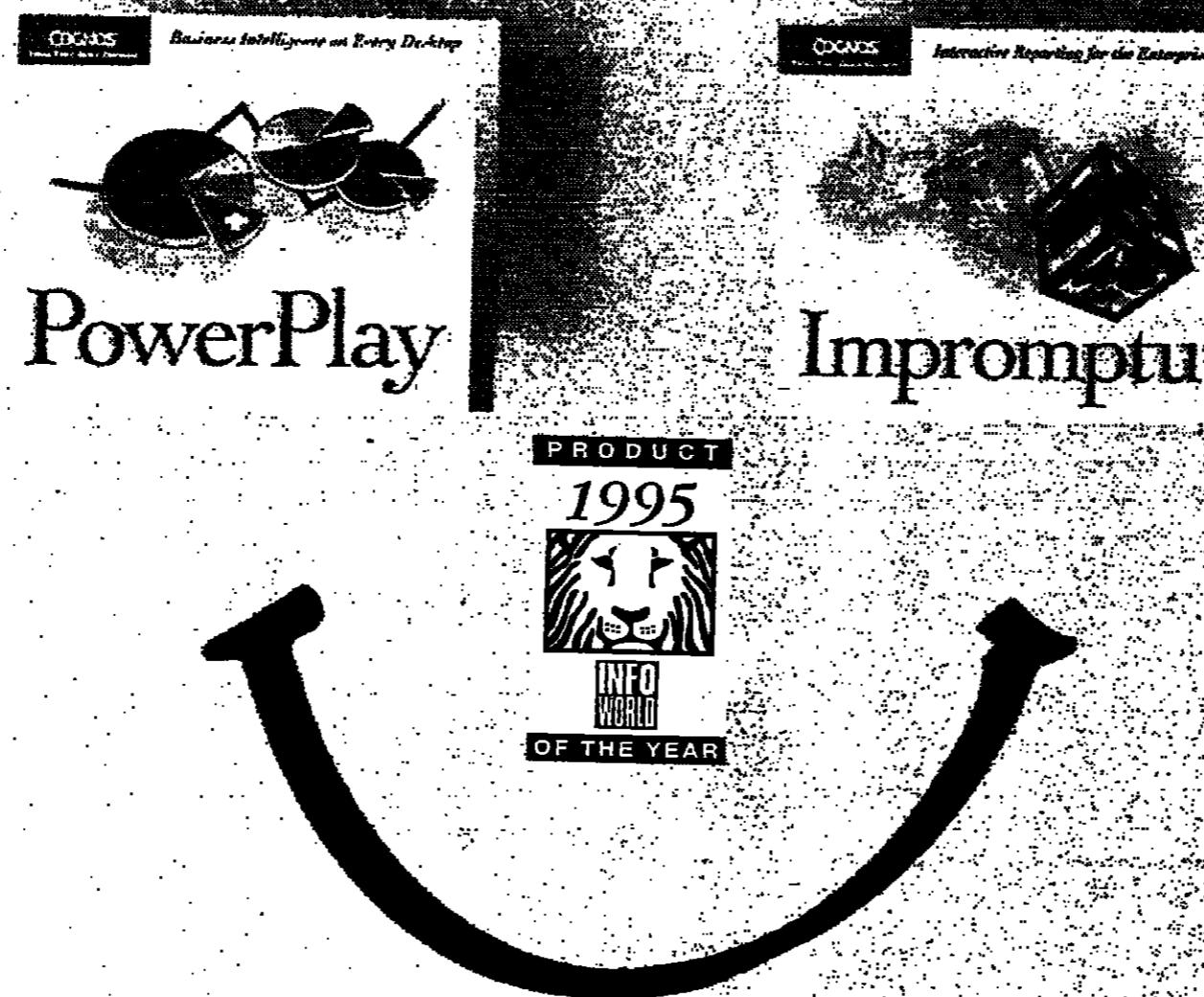
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Red Cross birth
appeal raises £52



On night calls
GP says Dor

Red Cross birth
appeal raises £52

Cash shortage forces hospitals to disregard clinical need when rationing latest drug

Chance of cancer therapy depends on your postcode

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A SHORTAGE of money is forcing National Health Service cancer centres to provide a two-tier service to patients, with some being offered the latest treatments while others are treated at the same centre.

The decisions on who to treat, which affect patients' chances of survival, are being made on financial, not clinical, grounds. People treated at oncology centres in London and Southampton are being told that their right to receive the latest drugs depends on their postcode and not on clinical need.

The cancer centre at the Royal South Hampshire Hospital, Southampton, which is facing a £350,000 overspend, is giving the new drug for ovarian cancer, Taxol, only to women whose health authorities have agreed to pay the cost.

Hospital and chairman of a group representing the 12 largest centres in the UK, said he would be meeting the Government's Chief Medical Officer.

"It is quite unacceptable that a patient living in district A gets the treatment while a patient living in district B does not,

even though they are being treated by the same consultant at the same centre."

An unpublished survey of the 12 largest cancer centres, which serve half the population, has revealed wide variations in levels of treatment and funding. Centres in Leeds, Newcastle, Birmingham and Cardiff are among those which are understood to have overspent their budgets. Earlier this month the Bristol Oncology Centre disclosed it was turning away terminally ill patients and concentrating



Professor Michael Richards examines a mammogram. He hopes a survey will support the case for more funds

on potentially curable cases because it was £500,000 overspent. In Southampton, the cancer centre has closed beds, cut staff and limited bone marrow transplants.

Professor Richards said: "The centres at the bottom of the scale will have a very good

case for more money. It is vital that the Government knows this so that it doesn't think a few maverick oncologists are to blame for the problems when they are affecting the whole country."

"In the last five years consultants in local hospitals have realised there are benefits from chemotherapy for com-

mon cancers such as those of the stomach and bowel, and are sending patients for treatment who would never have come to cancer centres before," he said.

There are 5,000 cases of ovarian cancer in the UK each year and 4,000 deaths.



BURMA'S BRAVE HEART
Joanna Pitman meets Aung San Suu Kyi, in the Magazine

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Cut night calls to GPs, says Dorrell

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS were urged yesterday to think twice before calling out their doctor at night to ensure that people in serious need get prompt and effective care. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said patients should recognise that an unnecessary call at night inhibited a doctor's capacity to provide high-quality service to others the next day.

Unveiling a £2.75 million advertising campaign aimed at curbing the rapid rise in night calls to GPs, which have doubled in the past three years, Mr Dorrell said: "General practice is the jewel in the NHS's crown but that can only be sustained on the basis of a healthy partnership between doctors and patients."

The campaign was agreed, with the British Medical Association.



Dorrell: unveiled doctors' campaign

Body and Mind, page 16

Red Cross birthday appeal raises £82m

By JOHN YOUNG

THE British Red Cross 125th Birthday Appeal, which officially ends today, succeeded in boosting contributions to nearly £82 million last year, a 14 per cent increase on 1994.

The appeal was sponsored by *The Times* as its 1994 Christmas charity campaign. John Gray, Red Cross director of public affairs, thanked readers yesterday. "Much of what we achieved we owe to *The Times*."

The Princess of Wales, patron of the appeal, will

attend an official celebration at Lancaster House in London today and will launch a fundraising initiative known as HelpAid, in which products sold in shops will carry advertisements for other non-competing brands, the income from which will go to meeting humanitarian needs.

The birthday appeal attracted 30,000 new donors,

and included one individual donation of £500,000.

Call to ban mines, page 13

Mackay faces defeat as 80 women lead cross-party rebellion in Lords

Peers pledge to give divorcees access to husband's pension

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is facing an embarrassing defeat in the House of Lords today over its refusal to accept the idea of a divorced woman being allowed to share her former husband's pension.

A formidable cross-party alliance of peers has promised to back an amendment during the report stage of the Family Law Bill this afternoon which will give women access to their former husband's pension at the time of divorce. At present divorcing couples can split their pension only at the time of retirement. Labour and Tory rebels believe their proposal would prevent divorced couples financial affairs being unnecessarily entangled for up to 35 years.

They are also concerned that thousands of divorced women are forced to live in penury in their old age waiting until their husband decides to draw his pension.

The 80 women peers, many of whom are rarely involved in legislation, are leading the way. Baroness Hollis of Heigham (Labour) and Baroness Young (Conservative) have attacked Lord Mackay's Divorce Bill, which they consider to be deeply flawed.

They are joined by the

Baroness O'Cathain (Conservative) and Baroness Seear (Liberal Democrat). Many male peers, including the former Law Lord, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former matrimonial judge, and Lord Marsh, a former Labour minister, have also said the move is imperative "on the grounds of compassion and logic".

Lord Mackay has leant over backwards to stop the revolt by announcing a consultation paper on pensions although no changes will be included in the current Bill. He also tabled a further amendment earlier this week to encourage couples to stay together by insisting that during the mediation period of a divorce the mediator must always emphasise the concept of reconciliation.

Baroness Hollis yesterday dismissed the paper as "an underhand delaying tactic". She refused to accept the Government's arguments that the process would cost too much, be too complicated and could be open to abuse.

In a written answer yesterday, the Government said pension splitting would eventually cost the taxpayer £180 million a year. Baroness Hollis said the figures had taken into account all those who

were married as well as those divorcing; the figure would be neutral.

Pension splitting is supported by the Pensions Management Institute, the Confederation of British Industry, the Law Society, Age Concern and the National Association of Pension Funds. "The pensions industry has seen this coming for a long time. They have already worked out the technicalities. This amendment would focus their minds," she said.

Baroness Young has added two contentious amendments to be debated tonight. She wants a minimum wait of 18 months instead of a year for petitioners with children. She also believes that the concept of fault should be kept in divorce proceedings, rather than the Chancellor's proposal of a no-fault divorce available after a year.

She is supported by an array of bishops and Catholic peers as well as many family-minded rightwing Tory peers.

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Divorce proceedings: Baroness Young, left, Baroness Hollis and Lord Mackay

easy and causes havoc for the children involved. She believes the Bill will harm many divorced women who have devoted their lives to bringing up their family. Yesterday she

said: "Marriage is a contract and there are such things as obligations and responsibilities."

Lord Mackay has the sup-

port of the majority of Labour peers over the two amendments and is likely to be able to squash them. But MPs on both sides have made it clear they will fight the Bill when it moves to the Commons.

Blair at odds with unions on 'concessions'

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR last night denied that he had made concessions to trade unions over improved recognition rights in the workplace.

His statement came after union claims that they had finally secured the Labour leadership's backing for their demands for greater negotiating rights. They insisted that they had managed to persuade Mr Blair to accept their proposal that if a majority of the workforce agreed in a ballot that a trade union should represent them, the union should be given full negotiating rights.

The unions argued that this would help them to recruit more members and ensure greater union representation among the workforce. "How can we start recruiting until we are recognised at a workplace?" one official said.

The official conceded, however, that if the ballots went against the unions they could lose any foothold they had already secured in firms.

"The TUC policy is even-handed and no good employer has anything to fear from it," a GMB official said. "It puts the ball firmly in the union's court, to prove that they can recruit members. We are delighted that the Labour Party seems to be moving in this direction." He insisted that this was a shift from the position before 1992, when unions were automatically recognised in the workplace if

they had recruited more than 50 per cent of employees.

Mr Blair's office made clear that there was no movement and "no shift". A source said the position had already been spelt out in the Labour leader's speech to the TUC last September.

In the speech Mr Blair said: "Where a majority of the workforce have chosen to have a union represent them, they should have the right to have that representation recognised by their employer in law."

But union chiefs last night said Mr Blair had never explained what he meant by the remarks and pointed out that there was no policy paper on the issue. They argued that Mr Blair had not until now endorsed full recognition rights for trade unions — that is, negotiating rights — rather than representation rights.

Union sources accused Mr Blair of shifting his ground in private meetings with union leaders but refusing to concede this in public.

Last night leadership sources countered that full recognition rights probably after a ballot of the entire workforce, had been agreed a year ago. They admitted, however, that the details had still to be worked out.

Mr Blair recently ruled out a new policy paper on union legislation before the election and has made clear that there will be no change in the position on trade union rights.

Ministers thwarted by 'mafia'

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THE Deputy Prime Minister admitted last night that the power of all ministers could be frustrated by the existence of a "Whitehall mafia". In a revealing insight into the inner workings of Government, Michael Heseltine said ministers often had merely "influence" rather than real power. "The constraints of the

system are much more pervasive than people understand. A minister can give orders but there are endless ways he will be frustrated. He will be told 'that isn't policy' or that he doesn't have authority." There were "other ways these matters can be arranged", Mr Heseltine told the Commons Public Service Committee.

In a story that sounded as if it has come straight from a

Yes, Minister script, Mr Heseltine said that in his early days in office he had decided on a certain course of action against the advice of his officials. "Then there came a letter out of the blue from the Treasury" sternly warning that "collective discussion" was needed before any action. How had the Treasury known? "The mafia," Mr Heseltine said darkly.

LABOUR'S ruling body is to launch a formal investigation into John Lloyd, the parliamentary candidate for Exeter who has admitted involvement in terrorist bombings in South Africa in the 1980s.

The move, approved by the National Executive Committee yesterday, coincides with further setbacks for Labour after bitter selection battles in two other constituencies, Glasgow Govan and Swindon North. The NEC turned down

the men chosen in both constituencies after inquiries exposed serious flaws and breaches of procedure in the selection process.

The selection process in Glasgow Govan is to be rerun after allegations of vote rigging, while the NEC has opted to set up a special selection panel to choose a candidate in Swindon North, where there have also been allegations of ballot irregularities.

Mr Lloyd was a member of the African Resistance Movement, a small group of

intellectuals opposed to apartheid and responsible for a dozen bombings against targets such as electricity pylons and radio masts.

Opponents of Mr Lloyd, who allege he betrayed a fellow conspirator who was later executed, want to see him deselected. The NEC agreed yesterday to carry out a full investigation before any decision was taken on whether his candidature should be re-endorsed. The panel will include John Prescott, Clare Short, and Tom Burlinson, the party's treasurer.

Labour look again at Lloyd candidature

BY JILL SHERMAN

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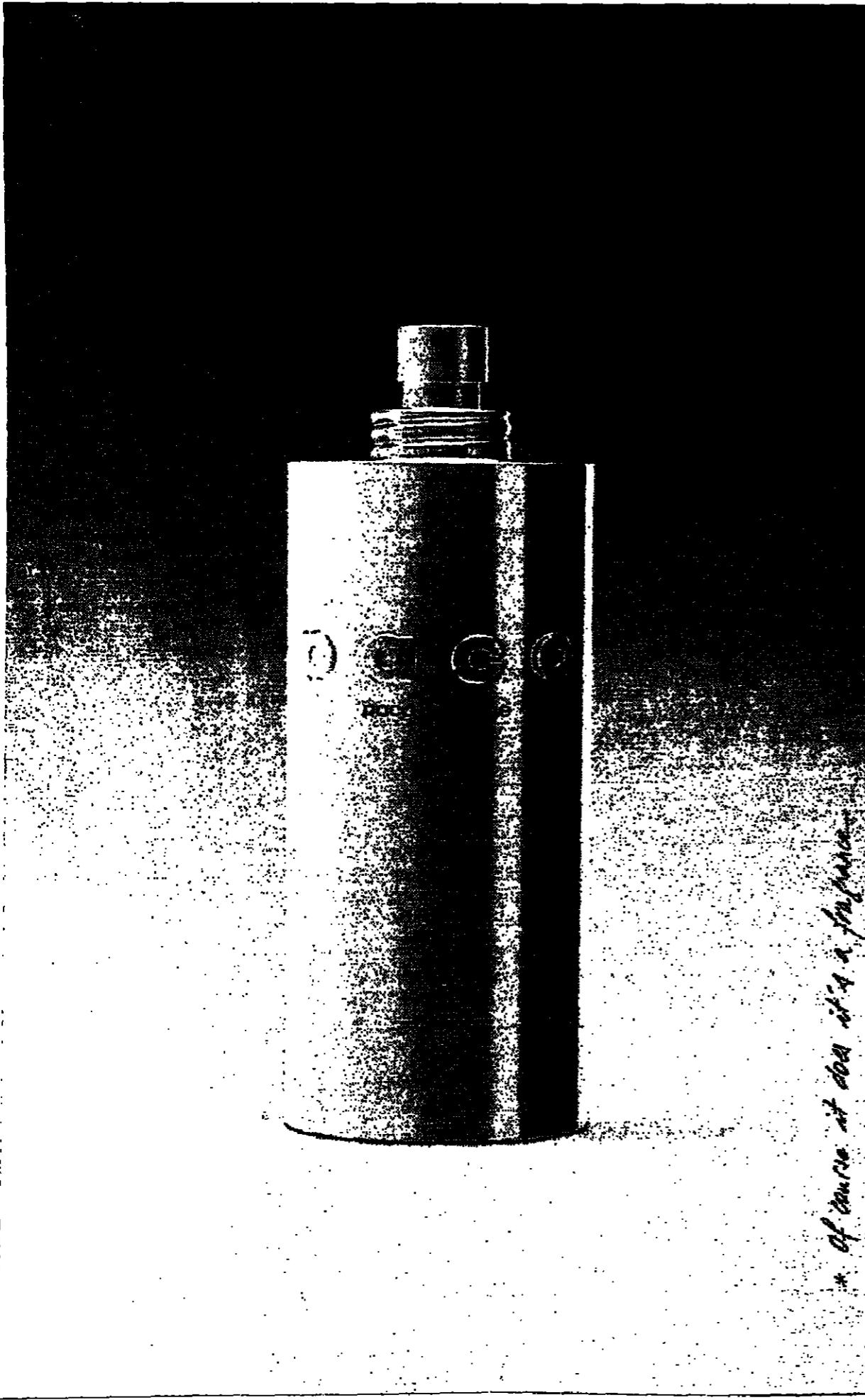
Mr Lloyd was a member of the African Resistance Movement, a small group of



Lloyd: investigated

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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996

HOME NEWS 9

Outcry forces rethink on criminal who wants compensation for 'pain and distress' caused by injuries

Legal aid stopped for shot robber who is suing police

By RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

AN ARMED robber who is suing the police for shooting him during a raid on a Post Office van had his legal aid suspended yesterday. Steven Charalambous was shot three times by police marksmen in February 1993 after he ignored their demand to drop his gun, which turned out to be an initiation.

Embarrassed officials at the Legal Aid Board announced the suspension after claiming that the board had not been given the full facts of the case when they applied for funding to sue the Metropolitan Police. Steve Orchard, chief executive of the board, said: "We have given the solicitors acting for this man

ing was granted. About £1,200 was given for a ballistics report to be obtained after a barrister advised that it was an appropriate case for funding from the £1.5 billion annual budget for legal aid.

But solicitors acting for Charalambous have been told to explain why they did not disclose the full facts of the case when they applied for funding to sue the Metropolitan Police. Steve Orchard, chief executive of the board, said: "We have given the solicitors acting for this man

ing was granted. About £1,200 was given for a ballistics report to be obtained after a barrister advised that it was an appropriate case for funding from the £1.5 billion annual budget for legal aid.

During his trial at the Old Bailey, Charalambous admitted conspiracy to rob and firearms offences. He was jailed for five years and is now in Holesley Bay prison in Suffolk.

He has issued a High Court writ claiming compensation for pain and distress suffered when Flying Squad marksmen opened fire as he held the replica handgun to the head of a postal worker in Crouch End, north London. His writ alleges that the shooting was "trespass to the person" and claims damages for "excruciating pain, fear, shock and lasting emotional distress".

He is demanding £335 for clothes damaged in the shooting, plus travelling expenses for relatives and his girlfriend who visited him in hospital.

Officials at the board held a series of meetings about the case yesterday before issuing a statement suspending the grant. It had believed that he



Steven Charalambous, right, lying wounded after being shot by police in 1993. Beside him are his toy policeman's helmet and imitation gun

was injured when unarmed, that the police had known he was unarmed and that they had been acting on a tip-off.

The board also had no knowledge that there had been a full inquiry into the shooting by the Police Complaints Authority, which cleared Detective Sergeant Livingstone and his officers.

Detective Sergeant Livingstone yesterday denied charges in the writ that he had dragged the wounded Charalambous up by the collar and forced him to pose for a photograph, wearing the toy police helmet he had used in the raid.

Detective Sergeant Livingstone yesterday denied charges in the writ that he had dragged the wounded Charalambous up by the collar and forced him to pose for a photograph, wearing the toy police helmet he had used in the raid.

reached after the board took opinion from Emily Driver, a barrister, on whether the case had a reasonable prospect of success. She is said to have advised that it was an appropriate case for legal aid to commission a ballistics experts report.

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said that the decision to grant Charalambous legal aid in the first place was an example of "a world gone mad". He said: "We have got a system in this country where the goodies are the baddies and the baddies are the goodies. I hope the Metropolitan Police vigorously defends this. All this is doing is putting money into lawyers' pockets."

Rule changes to weed out the wealthy 'unworkable'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT



LAWYERS signalled renewed clashes with the Lord Chancellor yesterday over new rules designed to crack down on the abuse of legal aid.

The Law Society and other legal groups said they supported the aim of the rules — to stop the "apparently rich" obtaining legal aid — but said that hundreds of people who genuinely deserved it could find themselves penalised because they had put their savings into a home.

Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, said the rules were "nonsensical". Russell Wallman, a society official, described them as absurd and likely to cause injustice.

The changes, introduced by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will ensure that the value of a person's home, above a cut-off level of £100,000, is taken into account when they are assessed for legal aid.

Officials assessing the

new rules, which will come into effect on June 1, also limit to £100,000 the amount of mortgage that can be offset against the equity value of a house and against income.

The Law Society, which has been at the forefront of the campaign to close loopholes allowing the "apparently wealthy" to exploit the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme, said some of the new rules, which have been laid before Parliament, were "unworkable".

Mr Wallman, the Law Society official in charge of legal aid, said: "People with a home of, say, £250,000 which is fully mortgaged will find themselves assessed as having £150,000 equity. So either they will be denied legal aid on the basis that they can afford lawyers, or they will be granted legal aid but asked to pay a contribution to their legal costs from capital they don't have."

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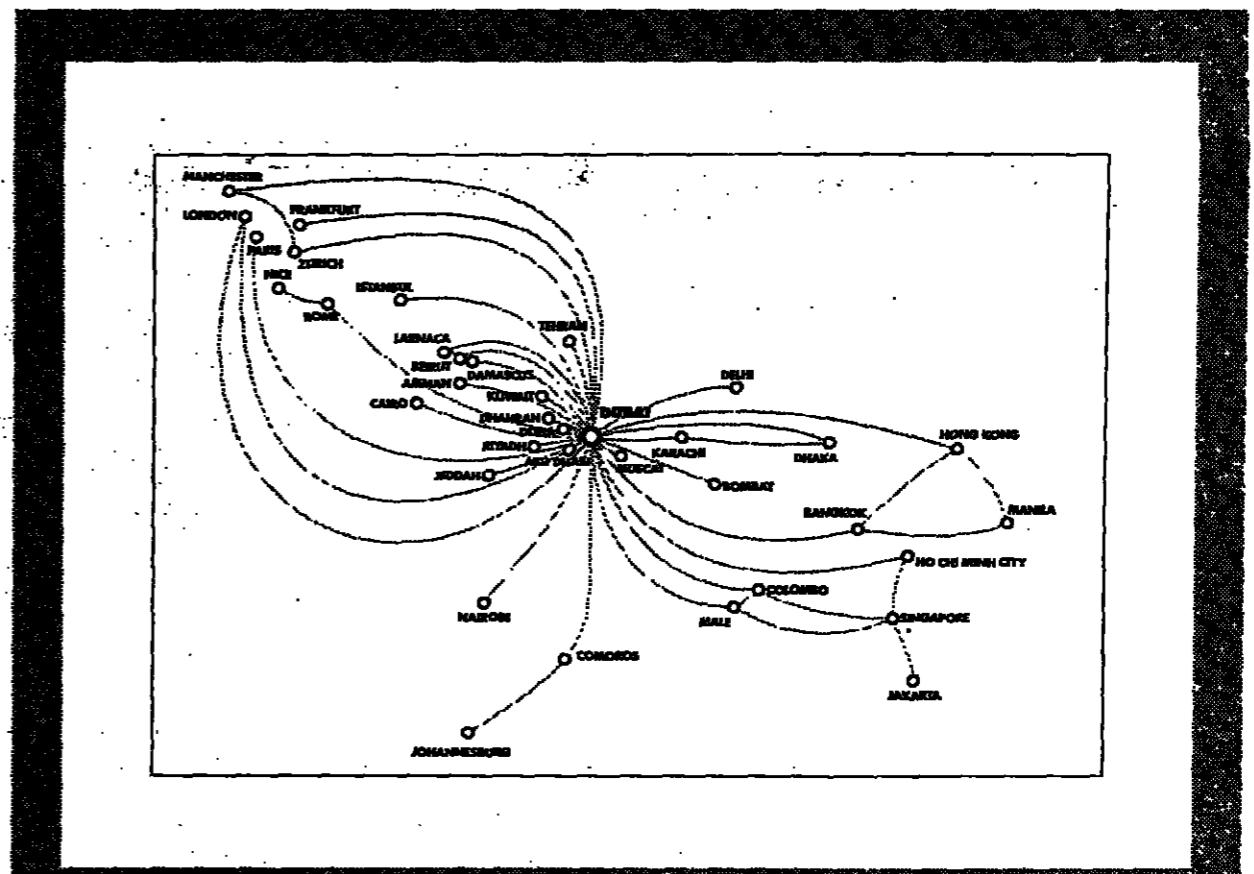
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Bidders for naval college may unite

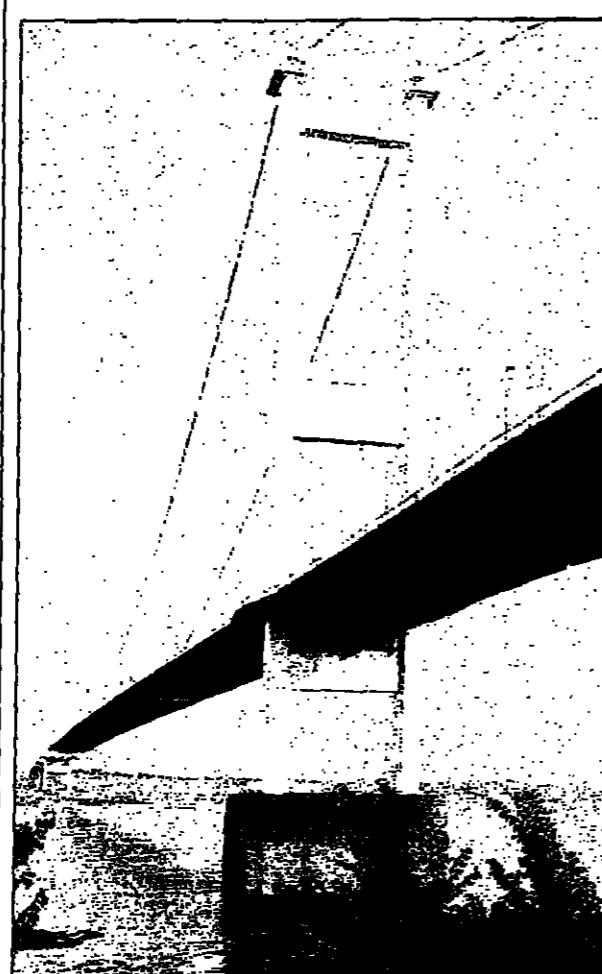
By NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Hong Kong businessmen who own Battersea Power Station could finance part of the Greenwich University bid to buy the Royal Naval College.

In return, the Asian property consortium would run language courses for overseas businessmen in Sir Christopher Wren's elegant buildings at Greenwich.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is due to make a decision on the sale this summer. Ministry of Defence officials have concluded that only three of the original eight bidders are credible.

These are Greenwich University with the National Maritime Museum; the Hong Kong-based Parkgate group headed by the Hwang brothers (the two bids that could be linked), and an unknown American university.



The Severn Bridge, which was completed in 1966



Recommended for listing, from left: A2 footbridge at Swanscombe, Kent; Eel Pie Island footbridge, west London; Kingsbridge footbridge, Durham

Bridges span a heritage gap

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE Severn Bridge and the Kingsgate footbridge in Durham city were recommended yesterday for Grade I listing as structures of outstanding historical and architectural significance. They head the latest list of postwar structures that English Heritage would like saved for the nation.

The public will be able to give its verdict on the merits of the 67-strong list at an exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects, the first time such public consultation has been undertaken.

Postwar buildings were excluded from listing until 1987, when English Heritage put forward 70 nominations.

Only 18 were accepted by the Government, including the Royal Festival Hall and Coventry Cathedral.

English Heritage hopes that public support will bring more success this time. Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman, said: "We believe these buildings are the best architectural landmarks of their type of the postwar period. This new challenge of deciding which modern buildings merit special protection involves us all and we hope that this exhibition will stimulate the widest possible public debate."

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, told a conference at the Royal Institute of British Architects yesterday that recent years had seen a series of fine new buildings,

and that our successors may marvel at the International Terminal at Waterloo and the Channel 4 headquarters in London.

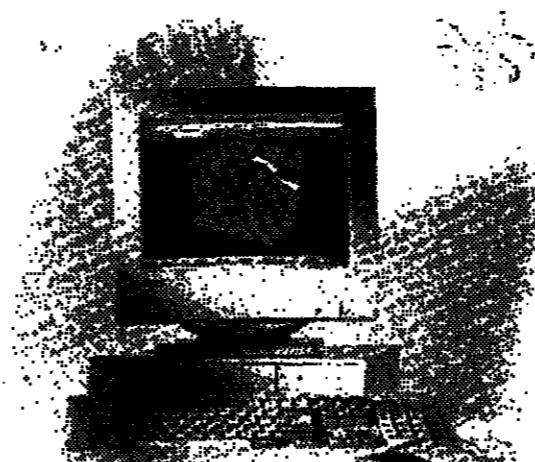
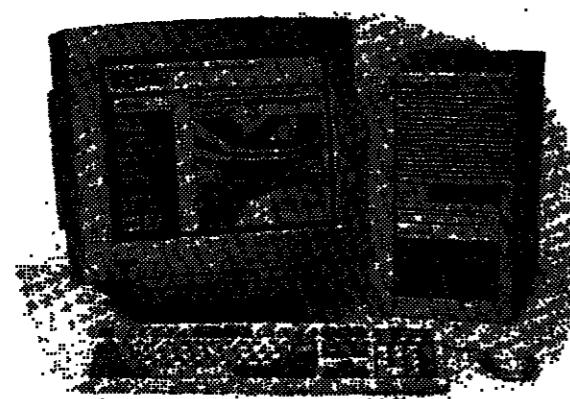
"Given the modern pace of change, unless we make some attempt to anticipate now what future generations will find of value, many fine buildings will be lost before anyone has had the chance to stop and think about their importance," she said.

The Severn Bridge, completed in 1966, and Kingsgate footbridge, built in 1963, are recommended for the highest listing status. Eight buildings are recommended for Grade II* listing: the Royal College of Physicians in Regent's Park, London; Christ Church Picture Gallery, Oxford; Wood Street police station, City of London; the American Military Cemetery Chapel, Madingley, Cambridgeshire; Scargill Chapel in Kettlewell, North Yorkshire; the Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire; St John the Evangelist, St Leonards, East Sussex; St Paul's Church, Ecclesfield, Sheffield. The rest of the structures are recommended for Grade II listing. The present list of postwar listed buildings totals 181.

The exhibition at the RIBA, in Portland Place, London, will run from tomorrow until March 23.

□ Listed buffers at Glasgow Central station are to be restored after cracking in severe cold weather. The water-filled buffers were installed 93 years ago.

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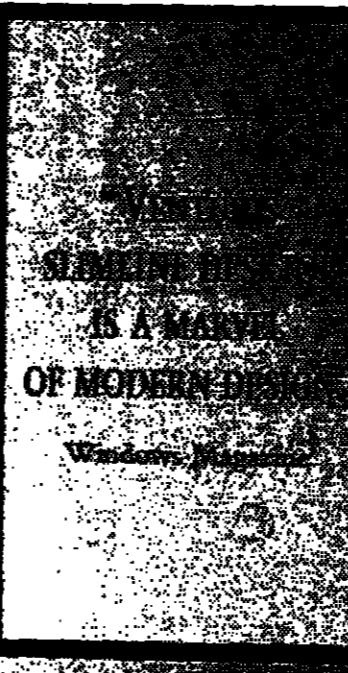
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Squirrel slaughter spreads to save trees

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE poisoning of grey squirrels is to be stepped up because of concern about the damage they do to trees by eating the bark during the spring and summer.

Lord Lindsay, the Forestry Minister, yesterday gave permission for Warfarin rat poison to be used against grey squirrels in Co Durham, Norfolk, east Suffolk and other parts of England where it had been banned. Use of the poison is also to be extended to north and central Wales and, for the first time, to a few areas in Scotland.

Grey squirrels were introduced to Britain from North America in 1876. There are estimated to be 2.5 million of them, about 15 for every native red. Reds have disappeared from most of England and are found mainly in Scotland.

Sycamore, beech and oak are particularly vulnerable.

Lord Lindsay said: "The damage is so great in some areas that it is proving a disincentive to new tree-planting, with landowners and farmers reluctant to invest time and money simply to have woodlands destroyed in their early years."

The poison will be put in feed hoppers that other wildlife cannot enter.

From next month, a six-month trial will be conducted on Anglesey, using poisoned bait in hoppers fitted with weighted flap doors which the heavier greys can push open but the lighter reds cannot.

Spirits seized
Drugs squad police and customs officers seized two firearms and spirits worth £30,000. A large still was found on the farm at Boduan, near Pwllheli, Gwynedd.

Foxhounds killed

Eleven foxhounds out of the South Dorset Hunt pack were killed by a high-speed train after chasing a fox on to the line between Wareham and Wool.

Police inquiry

An inspector and five junior

police officers from Derbyshire

face a disciplinary inquiry over allegations of discreditable conduct during an investigation into alleged brothels.

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Fun park fined

Drayton Manor Park, Staffs,

was fined £15,500 by Tamworth magistrates for safety offences after a five-year-old boy was seriously injured on a ride.

Sorry I'm late, I've got a syndrome

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A UNIVERSITY psychologist has worked for five years to discover that tasks always take longer to complete than we expect. "Task completion wishful thinking syndrome" is a universal human trait, according to Dr Dale Griffin.

From decorating the spare bedroom to digging the Channel Tunnel, we all tend to underestimate how long it will take and fail to modify our expectations on the basis of experience.

Promises are cheap, says Dr Griffin, of Sussex University, who has yet to write up his findings for publication. People who make them ignore their past history of missed deadlines and assume that everything will go smoothly this time.

He interviewed 1,000 people, mostly students. He found that they were often out by weeks in estimating when they would finish important tasks, despite being asked to name a date that could be met even if everything possible went wrong. But when asked if they had been late with comparable tasks in the past, 70 per cent admitted they had. When asked to estimate how long a colleague will take for a task, however, people give much more accurate guesses.

Dr Griffin analysed students with projects to complete, businessmen with tax returns to file in, families with a car that needed repairing and friends intending to put up a shelf. Regardless of the job, the result was almost always the same, he found.

He says that he is fairly reliable with big tasks but terribly late with unimportant ones. "I'm reasonably good at completing academic work if there's a deadline, but when it comes to something like taking the family on a trip, I'm hopeless at estimating how long it will take to get them ready. However often it happens, I get no better."

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Why police force of 2,500 has only 125 on the beat

By STEWART TENDERLA
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

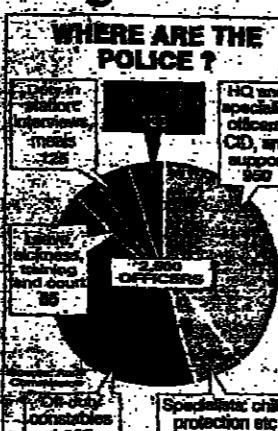
THE average police force of 2,500 officers can send only 125 of them on patrol at any one time to cover a population of a million, according to a report published today by the Audit Commission.

Although police allocate 60 per cent of resources and £4 billion a year to patrol work, only 5 per cent of manpower is on the beat at anyone time. Other officers are lost because of shift systems, sick leave, 24-hour coverage and specialised work.

The report shows that a typical town of 180,000 people would have ten officers on patrol at any one time, covering 230 pubs, 95 schools, 5,000 houses, 770 miles of road, and 1,400 miles of pavement.

The officers who do patrol face increasing and unrealistic demands from the public. But at the same time forces do not see their scarce patrols efficiently and send them chasing to many non-emergency calls.

The commission found that 9 per cent of the public felt patrols gave them reassurance.



reassurance. Control rooms did not properly screen emergency calls. In forces such as Hampshire 35 per cent of calls were treated as emergencies while in others it was less than 10 per cent. Thames Valley had cut the figure from nearly 35 per cent to 12 per cent.

The report says that nearly 10 per cent of officers did not also had serious mismatches of manpower to work demands. The maximum number of officers available for patrol was at Sun, which is one of the quietest periods. Sickness levels varied from five days per officer in the West Midlands to 20 days per officer in Merseyside, a comparable force.

There are also problems over police attitudes to beat patrols. The job was often carried out by trainees and officers were put on the streets when they were demoted from other work. Only 30 per cent of officers surveyed by the commission felt their forces considered patrolling as very important work.

The report notes: "The perception that patrol work is not a specialism is to independent observers not entirely rational."

The officers were often first at an incident and constantly in contact with the public. They frequently had to make instant decisions.

Laying to rest the notion that England and Wales can be policed by a generation of angular Dixon of Dock Green figures patrolling their beat in the 1950s, the report says that officers need to be more efficiently deployed, better briefed, and need to have a much clearer idea of what they are trying to achieve.

Andrew Foster, the Controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Patrol is the cornerstone of effective policing. It reassures the public who hold it in high regard and forges links with communities. But some forces could learn from others. They could target patrols more effectively, being seen more often outside schools at home-going and pubs when they are closing."

Speaking for the Association of Chief Police Officers, Keith Povey, Chief Constable of Leicestershire, said crime had doubled since 1980, 999 calls had risen by 133 per cent and police manpower had increased by 8 per cent.



The Dixon of Dock Green image no longer fits

Today's forecast: Met Office chief to return bonus

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Meteorological Office is to be asked to repay bonus payments he received after incorrect claims that accuracy targets had been met. The all-party Public Accounts Committee found yesterday that Professor Julian Hunt, the chief executive, had received a bonus of £4,800 "because he reported having achieved three targets which had been missed".

The report also found that, despite the investment of considerable sums of money, the accuracy of Met Office gale warnings had declined with potentially disastrous results for shipping.

Weather forecasters had defended themselves stoutly against claims of inaccuracy in a highly critical report from the National Audit Office last year but MPs who interviewed officials have rejected their defence and increased the pressure on Professor Hunt.

Richard Mottram, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, which runs the Met Office, told MPs that their report would determine whether the chief executive would be asked to repay the bonus made in 1992-93. The committee, which scrutinises all aspects of public expenditure, expressed "concern" that the reliability of Meteorological Office forecasts had deteriorated in some areas and shown only "modest improvements" elsewhere.

Gale warnings and frost warnings had shown a significant reduction in "hit rate", although false alarm rates had improved. MPs found that the Met Office had presented "inaccurate and misleading" reports of its performance to Parliament for the past two years.

The report said the inaccuracies were "quite unacceptable" and asked the Ministry of Defence to ensure that accuracy was improved.

The report further found that targets were insufficiently challenging, having remained unaltered even when beaten in previous years. MPs said that tougher targets were important because of pay bonuses.

Forecast, page 24

MP settles 'drunkard' libel case

By JOANNA BALI

THE Labour MP George Howarth settled his libel action against *The Guardian* yesterday over an article which he said portrayed him as a "boorish, foul-mouthed uncivilised drunkard".

Mr Howarth, MP for Knowsley North, accepted what he claimed was a "substantial five-figure sum" over an article which said he had bumped into the writer Fritz Spiegel in Soho and had uttered an explosive rather than apologising.

The MP's counsel, Michael Fugenberg, QC, told Mr Justice French: "Whether he was involved in that incident, it was not Mr Howarth". *The Guardian* accepted it was a case of mistaken identity.

Professor Sir Cyril Chantler, Principal of the United Medical and Dental Schools, paid £10,000 in 1994-95, not £139,000, as stated in a report (February 10), and does not therefore head the university principals' pay league.
 Chen Chen, the nine-year-old pianist (report, photograph, February 29), is not a student at Birmingham Conservatoire, but is taught privately by Beryl Chempkin.

Alan Clark arrested at checkpoint

By STEPHEN PARKER

ALAN CLARK, the former Defence Minister, was arrested yesterday after allegedly driving his Range Rover through a police cordon during a bomb alert. Mr Clark, 67, a former Conservative MP for Sutton, Plymouth, was held for obstruction and taken to Bow Street police station in central London.

He is said to have argued with police officers and then driven through the cordon they set up, in Piccadilly, central London, after reports of a suspect package. Mr Clark, who left the House of Commons in 1992, was later released and bailed to return to Bow Street in April pending a report to the Crown Prosecution Service.

An answering machine message at the Old Bailey's baths at Saltwood Castle, Kent, yesterday evening said: "This is Alan Clark. The whole thing is a complete misunderstanding. The police were, as always, wonderful and I have nothing more to say."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said last night that the arrest was made shortly after 2pm. "It is alleged that the man became argumentative with officers on the cordon and allegedly drove his Range Rover through the cordon."

The suspect package later turned out to be a false alarm.

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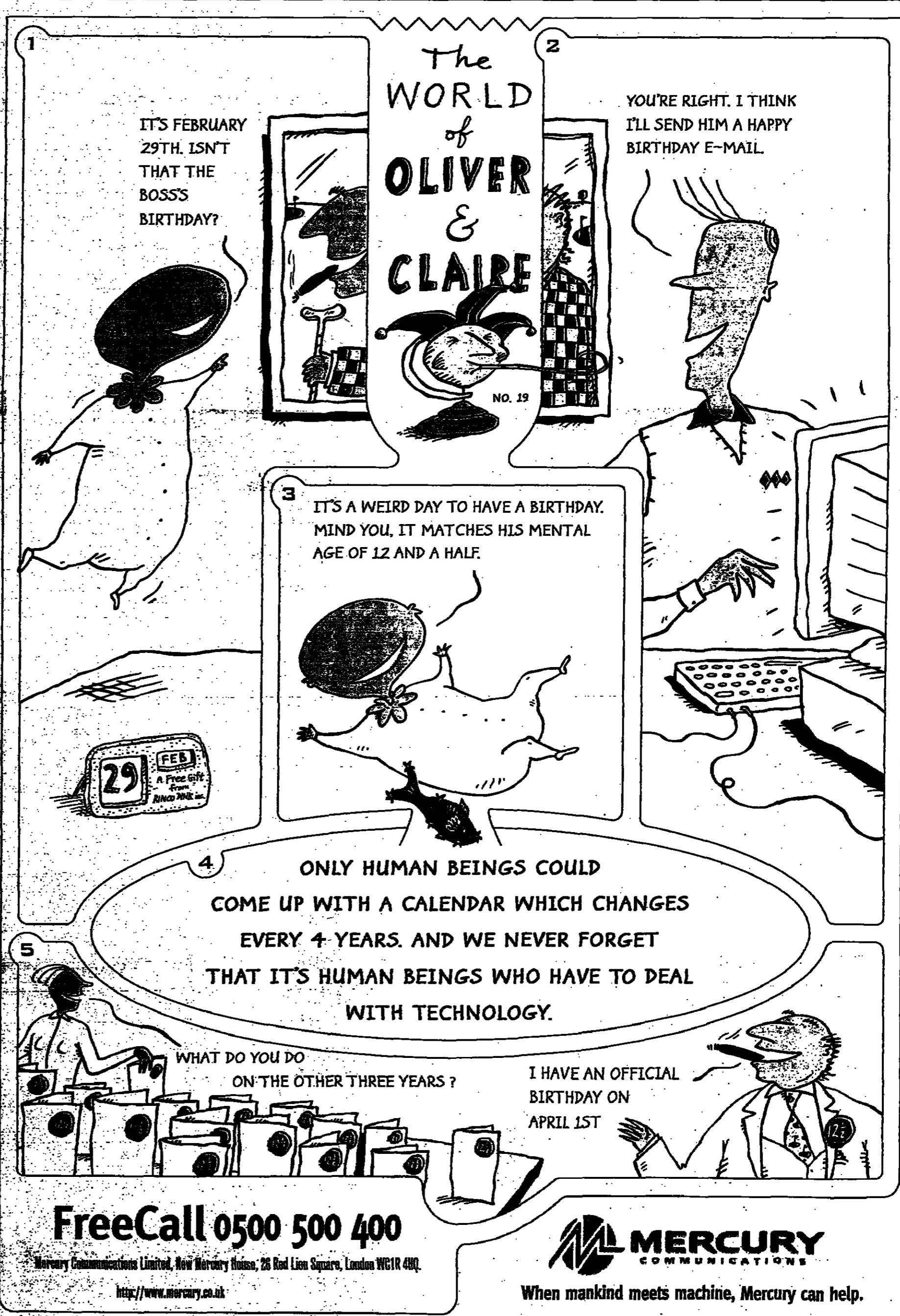
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Brussels rebukes British official in ethics scandal

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday rebuked Michael Emerson, its former Ambassador in Moscow, for a breach of ethics and said it would continue its investigation into allegations that he may have committed a more serious offence in his dealings with Russian businessmen.

The Commission granted a request by Mr Emerson, 55, one of the most senior British "Eurocrats", for early retirement because he had found no grounds for disciplinary proceedings, an official said. The Commission deplored the fact that his conduct had "not strictly conformed" to the ethics required of European Union civil servants, he said.

The Commission could start disciplinary proceedings later if the investigation, which is also being carried out by the Belgian police, produces new evidence. Like most national civil servants, EU staff are barred from pursuing professional or any paid interests outside their official function.

Mr Emerson, former top official for economic affairs, has been at the centre of a Brussels scandal with a cast of characters that includes, among others, Russian businessmen and a wronged American husband. It erupted



Emerson: his request to retire early granted

when Marshall Michel, the American husband of a Russian woman who worked for Mr Emerson, handed the Commission and the Belgian police copies of letters. Last weekend, the police raided the Brussels home of the woman, Yelena Prokhorova.

Last night, Mr Emerson welcomed the fact that the Commission had found no grounds for further action against him. "There was no foundation to the allegations of corruption and all that business," he said. He added that his business plans in Moscow were part of his legitimate preparation for a job after his early retirement.

He did not know whether he would pursue his project, but "it's not the end of my life". Mr Michel said he found the documents on his computer last month after his wife had left him for Mr Emerson. One of the letters made available to *The Times* carries Mr Emerson's name and refers to a Moscow accountancy firm on a joint project with Ilya Baskin, a St Petersburg businessman. It mentions plans to transfer funds to onshore bank accounts and the use of gold and silver as credit.

Mr Emerson confirmed last night that the letter was his, but noted that it referred to a future project. Another letter, in Russian, sets out a project for a consultancy firm whose president would receive a \$1.6 million (\$1 million) advance and \$30,000 a month.

The Commission's inquiry so far, conducted by its fraud investigation branch, had found that no "commercial or financial transaction" had taken place while Mr Emerson was serving as Ambassador, the spokesman for Jacques Santer, the Commission President, said.

The Emerson affair has severely embarrassed the Commission as it seeks to dispel charges of mismanagement from some member states and from the European Parliament.

Mr Emerson's involvement in one of the more lurid scandals to erupt in the Commission has amazed colleagues who know him as the straight-arrow civil servant who advised Lord Jenkins when he was Commission President and played a big part in setting up the European Monetary System.

Part of a letter given to the European Commission which outlines a contract for the presidency of a consultancy firm with a salary of \$30,000 a month

Basque region will fall to Right

FROM EDWARD OWEN
IN BILBAO

NOWHERE in Spain will Sunday's predicted victory for the conservative Popular Party (PP) be more telling than in Andalusia, the southern home state of Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist Prime Minister, and in the Basque country.

The PP is also expected to humiliate Señor González in simultaneous regional elections in Andalusia and smash the Basque Nationalist vote in the north.

The Prime Minister admitted on Tuesday night to a group of sympathetic intellectuals at Madrid's Fine Arts Circle that he would lose the vote on March 3 because he had failed to tackle government corruption. But Spaniards are also looking to the PP to reduce the highest unemployment rate in Europe, of 23 per cent, and combat terrorism — the dominant issues of the campaign.

"The economic crisis and violence are the two main issues here," said Ander Gurrutxaga, professor of sociology at the Basque University in Bilbao. "The great majority of Basques are fed up with having Eta [guerrilla] guns held at their heads. Eta has to go, before we even get close to planning how an independent Basque state would work, if at all. Increasingly, the civilised Right is voting for the PP."

A Basque government survey shows that 39 per cent of Basques identify themselves as nationalists, and 30 per cent would consider independence.

"The day that violence ends, Euskadi [the Basque nation] will be able to assume without fear the challenge of regaining the leading economic position that it has not had for so many years," an editorial in *El Correo*, Bilbao's newspaper, declared this week.



José María Aznar, expected to win Sunday's election, campaigning in Barcelona

A plan to give the old industrial port a facelift has been marred by weekly clashes between police and members of Jarrai, the separatists' youth movement. On Friday night Bilbao's restored old quarter is a no-go area in spite of its trendy new boutiques and bars, many of which are forced to pay protection money to Jarrai.

Opinion polls predict that the PP, led by José María Aznar, will defeat the Socialists for the first time in 13 years. In the Basque region, where Madrid-based parties

— especially those seen as right-wing — have fared badly, polls show the PP running neck-and-neck with the separationist Basque Nationalist Party (PNV). The Socialists lag, their copybook bloodied by using death squads to kill Eta suspects. Herri Batasuna, Eta's political wing, may poll 14 per cent of the votes.

José María Oreja, the head of the PP in the Basque region, has been winning support by accusing the PNV, which runs the regional government, of being ambivalent in tackling the guerrillas.

Killer stalks Italian spa city

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE sleepy spa town of Merano in northern Italy was dubbed "the city of fear" by the Italian press yesterday after the fourth murder there in three weeks.

The murders have followed a similar pattern, leading the police and apprehensive residents to suspect that a serial killer is on the loose. "We are all living in fear," said Franz Alber, the Mayor. "We are dealing with a psychopath."

All the victims have been shot in the head with a 22-calibre pistol, the attacks taking place between 8pm and 10pm. The latest to die was Paolo Vecchietti, 36, an electronics factory worker, shot while waiting for his fiancée outside a bookshop in the square in front of Merano's Gothic cathedral.

The fiancée, Ivonne Samo, was walking across the largely deserted square towards him and saw a tall, blond man carrying a rucksack approach her fiancé and shoot him with a pistol. She screamed, and the murderer fled.

The killings began on February 8, when a German Bundesbank official, Hans-Otto Dethmering, and his companion, a local woman teacher, were shot dead in a central street, not far from the scene of the latest killing.

There was speculation at the time that the "Bundesbank murder" was connected either with an international banking scandal or with a tangled love affair. But it was followed week later by the murder on 52-year-old farm labourer on the outskirts of town. He was shot in the head at close range.

Merano police said last night that Signorina Samo had given them a full description of the killer, a man in his late thirties with a beard.

Turkish leaders to take turns at top

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TWO months after a general election, Turkey looks almost certain to have a government, albeit not the one most commentators were expecting.

Mesut Yilmaz's right-wing Motherland Party has withdrawn from two weeks of negotiations with the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, which is openly critical of the secular foundations of the Turkish state, and re-entered discussions with the True Path Party of Tansu Ciller, the caretaker Prime Minister.

Mr Yilmaz and Mrs Ciller met yesterday and announced an agreement in principle on a

French plot to bring invading Franglais under their spell

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

PROTECTORS of the French language have come up with a bizarre defence against "Franglais" by suggesting Anglo-American words that have crept into common usage should be given French spellings.

"Le weekend", "le leader" and "le job" should become "l'ouïe-quinde", "le lidieu" and "le jobe", *Le Figaro* newspaper declared in a supplement devoted to bemoaning the erosion of the French tongue.

"It is extraordinary that the French, through a sort of incomprehensible paroxysm, do not consider integrating borrowed terms into their own spelling," the writer Claude Duneton argued, adding that "the massive anglicisation of the vocabulary is upsetting the normal function of the language."

WORD FOR WORD

Le parking le parquingue
Le pull-over le pule-av-vers
Le baby-boomer le bébèbomère
Le crooner le crunère
Le shampoo le champ-où
Le football le fútbol
La star la starre
Le sandwich le sandoiche

The paper's "Top Ten list of dangers facing French" also identified poor teaching, the power of television and the weakness of the "cultural classes" as reasons why English and American terms are spreading steadily through the language of Molière.

In English, of course, the use of French terms is already a "faughtaccomp" (fait accompli), and

changing their spelling would undermine their very "raisindetra" (raison d'être). But the latest effort to roll back the tide by gallicising the spelling of foreign terms might also be interpreted as an admission that Franglais has taken root.

"The French language is a masterpiece, yet it is a masterpiece in peril," Jean-Marie Rouart, the literary editor of *Le Figaro*, observed in an editorial thundering against "galloping anglomania".

He also admitted that "however tempting, it is impossible to outlaw all undesirable words such as 'must, drink, look and the like, and firmly send them back on planes to their country of origin".

English continues to gain ground. A recent survey found that in secondary schools and universities, 94 per cent of students chose it as a second or third language, while the

How *Le Figaro* illustrated its attack on the erosion of the language of Molière by English and American terms

THE TIMES

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Those variable rate borrowers completing between 26th and 29th February 1996 will benefit from the 0.25% reduction from the effective date of completion.

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Publisher's rise from ashes in Phoenix leaves Republican race for White House wide open

Fortune smiles on Forbes in Arizona

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE personal fortune lavished on his election trail finally paid dividends yesterday for Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, who rose from the ashes in Phoenix and firmly re-established himself as third man in the race for a Republican White House.

His unexpected victory left Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, and Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator, trailing in the frontiers of Arizona and accelerated Mr Forbes to the head of the delegate table.

The publisher had spent an estimated \$4 million (£2.6 million) on television and radio advertisements in the Copper State, both to attack rivals and promote himself as a free trader and Washington outsider. Under winner-takes-all rules, he won all 39 delegates in the richest-yet prize of the primary season.

His triumph makes an already muddled race for the nomination even more so, with Mr Dole still looking weak despite simultaneous victories in North and South Dakota, Mr Buchanan winded, and Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, desperately seeking to break his duck in the primaries. It was the day there was no Republican front-runner.



US PRIMARIES

"A week ago, they wrote our obituary," Mr Forbes told supporters in Phoenix. "Tonight, they can perhaps write the obituary of conventional political punditry."

Dismissed the "hunker in the bunker" protectionism of Mr Buchanan, he declared: "We believe deeply that America has the potential for the greatest economic boom and spiritual renewal in our history. We see an America that is self-confident, dynamic...not fearful of the future."

Mr Forbes had long spoken of his "4-3-2-1" strategy of finishing progressively better in Iowa, New Hampshire, Delaware and Arizona, and this was vindicated in the result in Phoenix. But he still faces a tough hurdle among the committed Christian vote in South Carolina and has little hope of capitalising on his success before the New York contest early next month.

His television efforts in Arizona began last September and ended with two documentaries in the final days when he also spent \$30,000 on telephone canvassing.

Although Mr Buchanan finished third in Arizona, he also remained in the top three in the Dakotas — states where his anti-trade message was expected to play badly — and still carried momentum into the South.

The Republican establishment, still very concerned about Mr Buchanan's success, had hoped to see numbers dwindle, leaving a straight duel between Mr Dole and Mr Buchanan. Poor showings by

Mr Alexander, who had assumed the role of moderate Washington outsider, suggested this might have happened.

But the Forbes victory has considerably altered the primary landscape, ensuring that the publisher remains a contender in the critical weeks ahead.

THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

	Arizona	N. Dakota	S. Dakota	North Dakota	South Dakota	Ariz.
Forbes	34	20	13			
Dole	30	42	45			
Buchanan	27	18	29			
Alexander	7	6	9			
Keyes	0.8	3	3			
Lugar	0.6	1	0			
Taylor	0	0	0			
% vote: Source, Reuters						

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Saddam kills his grandchildren to end family threat

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALL seven of President Saddam Hussein's grandchildren may have been butchered in an attempt to wipe out any future threat to his Baghdad regime, Iraqi opposition sources claimed yesterday.

The four children of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Fassan, and the three children of his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, both of whom defected to Jordan in August, are said to have been killed "in an act of biblical vengeance".

The Iraqi authorities earlier claimed that members of the al-Majid family shot the two defectors in order to "wipe out the shame" they had caused by defecting to Jordan, and calling for the overthrow of Saddam's regime.

US intelligence sources monitoring the Gulf region, however, reported that the killing within the al-Majid clan was far from over. Lt Commander Kenneth

Katzman, a former Central Intelligence Agency analyst who monitors developments in the Gulf for the Congressional Research Service, said that the purge appeared to be continuing among family members.

This could shake up the balance of power in Saddam's extended family, possibly leading to bloodshed in other layers of the regime outside the immediate family, he added.

Iraqi opposition forces had been spreading rumours of mounting strife inside the country, including clashes between government forces and rebel groups. Saddam's foes could not, however, be regarded as a credible source on such matters, added Commander Katzman.

General Hussein Kamel and his brother, both sons-in-law of Saddam Hussein, returned to Baghdad last Tuesday expecting to be par-

doned after spending six months in Jordan. By Friday morning, however, they were divorced from their wives — both of them daughters of Saddam — and murdered that afternoon.

An official working with the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella group representing a variety of opposition groups, said that the defectors were killed immediately because Saddam feared that they had CIA hacking to overthrow his regime.

In a blood-curdling oath of loyalty to Saddam Hussein published in Baghdad, the remaining relatives of the murdered Iraqi defectors vowed to "cut off the heads" of any more traitors who dared to defy his rule.

The statement added: "We swear before the symbol of Iraq and our fighter Saddam Hussein that our swords will remain brandished to cut off the heads of those who dare to

harm him." It was the "mission" of the remaining members of the al-Majid family "to cut off the evil branch of the family," the statement added.

Dr Ahmad Chalabi, the president of the Iraqi National Congress, insisted that the defections have caused "irreparable damage to Saddam's

regime by revealing the "tawdry in-fighting amongst Saddam's inner clique," and by destroying Iraq's special relationship with Jordan.

In addition, information on Iraq's military procurement programmes passed on to the United Nations by the two defectors, showed that

Saddam still has no intention of complying with the UN resolutions calling for an end to Iraq's attempts to build weapons of mass destruction, thereby "infinitely delaying" Saddam's dream of ending UN sanctions against Iraq.

The defectors were a sign that "Saddam Hussein's re-

gime is on the brink of collapse," Dr Chalabi said.

The current round of talks

between Iraq and the UN on

the sale of \$2 billion (£1.3

billion) of oil over the next six

months to finance purchases

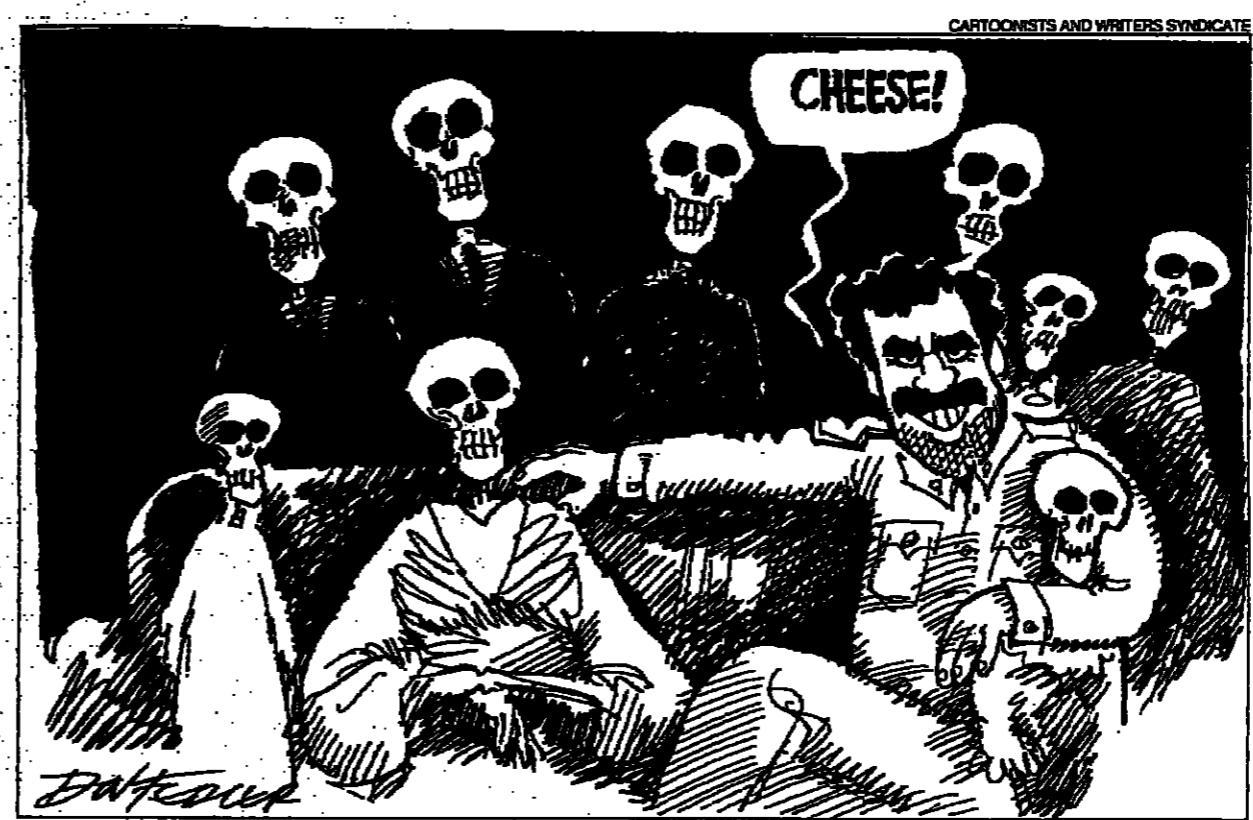
of food and medical supplies,

will bring little benefit to

Baghdad, he added.

Herr Weinrich is fighting the accusations, knowing more terrorist-related charges will follow if the prosecution is successful.

The trial is likely to pin down some of the myths surrounding Carlos, the alias oflich Ramirez Sanchez. Extradited from Sudan in 1994, he is awaiting trial in France.



A picture from the new family album of Saddam Hussein — a view of Fedler in *The Star*, Johannesburg

Angry islanders urge Rifkind to sack Governor

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

OUTRAGED ministers from Britain's tiny Caribbean possession of Turks and Caicos Islands have written to Malcolm Rifkind demanding that the Foreign Secretary sack the Governor because they say he is an arrogant autocrat.

Members of the legislative assembly are furious that Martin Bourke, the career diplomat who has been Governor of the islands for the past two years, wrote a strongly critical article in a recent issue of the magazine *Offshore Finance*, in which he suggested that crime was rising, the police were corrupt, and the island had become a haven for drug traffickers.

"We've had difficulties in the past. Allegations against the police ranged from incompetence, sloth, corruption, even discrimination against islanders. The crime rate has gone up by 40 per cent in the last three years," wrote Mr Bourke, who is responsible for law and order. He said one policeman was under arrest allegedly for robbing his residence when he was meant to be guarding it.

The islanders, who total only 15,000, are furious at what they regard as an insensitive sight, and are also angry at another article Mr

Bourke wrote for *Business Age*. They wrote to him saying he had shown "astonishing disrespect" and said they had watched with "increasing dismay" while he had exercised his powers in total disregard of the feeling of the people whom he had been charged to govern.

Mr Bourke, who has held previous appointments in Brussels, Singapore and Johannesburg, had no comment yesterday, and his office referred inquiries to London. The Foreign Office confirmed that it had seen the protest, and was now seeking comment from Mr Bourke.

The islands have been a colony for more than 230 years and now are one of the last 16 remaining overseas possessions that are classified as dependent territories. The Turks and Caicos have internal self-government with six elected ministers.

Tourism has increased rapidly in recent years, with 79,000 people last year visiting the islands north of Haiti. However, some of the Governor's remarks appear well-founded: three ministers were jailed in 1985 for drug smuggling and last week a smuggling case fell apart because police bungled procedures.

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'Jackal'
aide
denies
bombing

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

A MAN regarded as the adjutant of Carlos the Jackal went on trial in Berlin yesterday accused of killing and bombing on his behalf.

Johannes Weinrich, 48, described by police as Germany's "senior and most successful terrorist", swaggered into the fortified courtroom looking like a self-assured businessman in a smart tweed jacket, tie and half-moon spectacles.

He is accused of smuggling explosives into West Berlin — with the passive assistance of the East German secret police — to blow up the French cultural institute in 1983. The huge blast killed one person and injured 22 others.

Herr Weinrich is fighting the accusations, knowing more terrorist-related charges will follow if the prosecution is successful.

The trial is likely to pin down some of the myths surrounding Carlos, the alias oflich Ramirez Sanchez. Extradited from Sudan in 1994, he is awaiting trial in France.

On the front line with the young medics

DR SEAN MOLLOY

One thing I didn't take into account was that I would be so tired. You never really get used to it. When you do a weekend on-call you can be up for 60 hours at a time, and you do feel absolutely shattered. On average, I do 87 hours per week, but the most was 130 — over Christmas week. There are times when you moan a bit about having a tough weekend, but I do think you need the hours to get enough experience to be competent.

"I don't have a problem with long hours — I've been very well covered, because I have a senior house officer, a registrar, a senior registrar and a consultant, and they've been very supportive. Without that it would have been difficult, but I've enjoyed it immensely."

"Over time you do become chronically tired. Everybody can deal with one night, but over six months it becomes so deep that you fall asleep without any indication. One occasion I went out for a meal with a friend, who actually left me propped up against a partition in a Chinese restaurant — left me, paid the bill and went home. I've also fallen asleep in the car on the way home. One of the consultants said that he falls asleep when he is stopped at traffic lights."

"I don't think you ever get dangerously tired because your adrenalin does flow when something important happens. I still get a rush every time — I think it's something that you can actually get addicted to, and that's what you enjoy about being here. Dealing with daily problems, the most important thing is for your temper to be stable."

"The most exciting thing I've done so far was my first appendicectomy. You can assist in theatre an awful lot, but the responsibility when you are actually doing the operation yourself is fantastic. I want to be a surgeon in the end, so doing my first operation was unbelievable — I called my father afterwards, at about 3.30 in the morning, to tell him.

"I also get a great kick out of dealing with patients, and they can

"You expect, and accept, that you're never going to get enough free time. Work has affected my social life dramatically. What you do is swap your social life outside for a social life inside — you find that you become an awful lot closer to your workmates in the hospital, and I've had to make a special effort to keep up with friends outside. I'd also like to be able to play more sport — I used to be an international tennis player, but I haven't had a game in six months. I would hate to lose something which I have played all my life."

"I was a trained chiropractor before I went into medicine, and had my own clinic. I still do a bit of work on free weekends, though that's had to drop off a lot. I think there is an advantage in going into medicine as a mature student — most people come straight from school, and I know some people here who are qualified, but don't particularly want to go on with medicine. But they are not qualified for anything else, and feel trapped. Having already done four years of a medically-oriented course, I knew for sure that I wanted to go through with it. In the end I'd like to do spinal surgery, using my chiropractic to complement it."

"I would still make the same decisions all over again. The only thing I would say is that there should be greater rewards for doctors and nurses who work long hours. But medicine is a vocation, and I wouldn't change it."

Six months ago, two junior doctors told *The Times* of their hopes and ambitions as they started work at St George's Hospital, Tooting. Today, they reveal how far the reality of the NHS has lived up to their dreams



Exhilarated: Dr Sean Molloy

be very entertaining. People have done so much with their lives, and you learn a lot from them. If you have patients who are terminally ill, they have a great serenity towards the end, and you can learn from that as well."

"The best thing is the job satisfaction — it couldn't be the money. I cannot imagine the satisfaction you get from medicine can be equalled by any other profession. My non-medical friends are fascinated by what I do and they hear my enthusiasm and envy it. They may be earning three times as much as me, but they don't get up in the morning looking forward to going to work, and I do."

"I have become much more capable in situations which previously terrified me. I was mostly scared by heart attacks, or epileptic fits and asthma attacks. I wasn't completely sure of what to do — you learn it in theory, but it seems very different in practice. A lot of common things that occur in



Sometimes bored, occasionally terrified — but Dr Ann Scott-Russell says: "I can't think of anything else I would rather do".

DR ANN SCOTT-RUSSELL

The mundanity of much of it is different from how I had imagined it. I didn't think there would be quite so much paperwork and routine, and a lot of that is very boring. Being a doctor sounds much more glamorous.

"I have become much more capable in situations which previously terrified me. I was mostly scared by heart attacks, or epileptic fits and asthma attacks. I wasn't completely sure of what to do — you learn it in theory, but it seems very different in practice. A lot of common things that occur in

casualty or on the wards don't frighten me any more. Sometimes I become frustrated by the red tape when I would much rather spend the time talking to the patients and treating them. You don't realise how many forms you have to fill out.

"The rot here is a one-in-five, which means every fifth day you are working through the night. You work one-in-five weekends as well, from Saturday morning to Monday evening. Our hourly pay is OK, but you get paid about half that for overtime, which is anything after 8pm, weekends, and Bank Holidays. On Christmas Day it felt particularly poor — dealing with an emergency at 2am when all you're worth is just over £3 an hour.

"St George's is very much in debt. You notice it in simple things, like not having plasters in Casualty, or the right kind of swabs. All the equipment is the cheapest possible. In some places they have things like special blood-gas sy-

ringes whereas we have to mock up our own. There is also a shortage of nurses. The bed status is horrendous. There are never enough.

"I think the fundamentally important thing is that you're here to help the patients. A lot of people are more competitive, and perhaps see their patients academically or as a

means to get on, but I

very much like getting to know them if I can. The best thing is talking to them in Casualty and piecing together all the information to make a diagnosis and formulate a treatment. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, and it is immensely satisfying to see the patient's recovery.

"My scariest case was when I was called to see a patient in the middle of the night. He was a young chap, probably in his fifties, gasping for breath. I was the only

doctor there when he arrested. I'd only just started work, and I couldn't believe it that he had done that on me. I sent out a crash call, and tried to resuscitate him with cardiac massage.

"It seemed like hours before anyone got there, and I was scared out of my wits. When the team arrived they tried to resuscitate him, but he died. I felt guilty — I thought this is my fault. It was a real feeling of desolation. I had to tell his relatives in the morning, who were devastated, and I felt completely inadequate.

"Lack of sleep is very hard. It is difficult to remain calm, in control, and not irritable with four hours' sleep when you are getting hassled continuously. Because everyone else is in the same boat, there is no one to sympathise.

"There is this attitude that you have to be quite heroic about it all. You just have to get on with it, and in the end you almost forget about it until some minor incident sets you off in floods of tears.

"I don't want medicine to completely take over my life, so I try to go out when I'm not working, at the expense of having time to myself.

"I've got a huge pile of ironing which I never have time to do, and I never watch television or cook for myself. I'm going out with a non-medical, and fortunately he is very understanding.

"Even knowing what it is like, I can't think of anything else I would rather do. I might get fed up with it all in a few years, but at the moment I'm not tied down. I don't have kids or a mortgage, or anything else to occupy me apart from friends and boyfriend."

"Despite everything, medicine does live up to my dream."

Interview: ANNA ROCKALL

THE SUNDAY TIMES

WOMEN IN POWER

On Sunday, in a special issue of the Magazine, leading writers imagine what Britain would be like if it were run by women. Politics, money-making, advertising, fashion and sex... the conclusions are revelatory

PLUS

32 pages of women's style and beauty clothes for spring are pale pastels; the new cosmetics palette is iridescent; and the fabrics of the future have built-in computer systems



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Relax, don't let catching the train give you cardiac strain

Advice from the heart

LAST weekend there were reports of another elderly householder who had a fatal heart attack while confronting a burglar. Whether these deaths are the result of chance, unaccustomed violent exercise or extreme emotion is discussed by Dr M.C. Petch, consultant cardiologist at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, in this week's *British Medical Journal*.

Another cardiologist, who treated Airey Neave after he had a coronary thrombosis while still a comparatively young man and just starting his ministerial career, has no doubt. When Mr Neave had recovered he was relegated to the back benches until promoted by Margaret Thatcher. He devoted much

of his parliamentary time to the Select Committee on Science and Technology, which involved extensive travel.

Mr Neave's cardiologist warned him never to combine sudden violent exercise with emotion, and in particular to avoid hurrying — to the theatre, an appointment or for a train or flight.

The actual risk of having a coronary as the result of sudden exercise is not great

but the *BMT* quotes statistics from a survey which shows that 14.1 per cent of the cases investigated had recently undertaken vigorous physical exercise and 18.4 per cent of the patients reported an emotional upset.

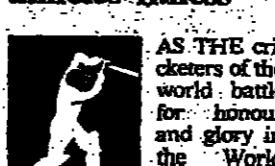
An American study has suggested that a person is six times more likely to have a coronary thrombosis after exercise, even if it was no more vigorous than jogging, swimming, pushing a lawn-

mower, heavy gardening or shovelling snow. The good news is that although the relative risk goes up, the actual chance of a previously healthy middle-aged man having his first heart attack when undertaking any of these strenuous activities is very small indeed.

Both German and British researchers have also found an increased rate of heart attacks after psychological stress, but it is very hard to define what constitutes stress and significant emotional upset.

In Dr Petch's opinion, legal claims based on direct trauma to the heart should be settled, but claims based on emotional stress are unlikely to succeed.

Sex doesn't affect athletes' fitness



AS THE cricketers of the world battle for honour and glory in the World Cup, *Pulse* magazine and the *Journal of Medical Fitness* have an account of research by American physiologists into the vexed question of whether sex before a match undermines athletic prowess.

The US scientists found

that athletes' levels of physical fitness were not altered by having sex during the 12 hours before they were tested on a treadmill.

Although interesting and cheering news for the cricketers, the research fails to consider other factors which are important on a playing field. There is no account of recent sex on competitive spirit and aggression, necessary qualities which together make up the will to win.

Perhaps our cricketers should continue to go to bed with nothing more exciting than a good book.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE?

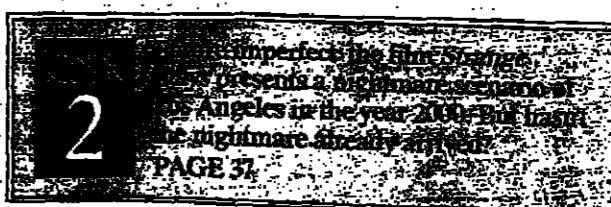
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Julia Llewellyn Smith reports on the philandering Maestro of Modena

A family problem for the Pavarottis

The magnificent ochre villa on the outskirts of Modena is silent. Luciano Pavarotti, his wife is in Barbados; Adua, his wife of 30 years, is in the Canary Islands.

Their absence from their home town has not gone unnoticed. Indeed, the talk is of nothing else, and the newsstands have sold out of copies of *Chi*, the gossip magazine which featured photographs of the Maestro frolicking in the Caribbean last week with Nicoletta Mantovani, his 26-year-old PA.

La Gazzetta di Modena's headline reads: "Luciano, Go Home". Adua Asks her Husband to Think Again and to Finish his Affair with Nicoletta.

Pavarotti's affair with Nicoletta has been an open secret in the opera world for more than two years. It is not his first extramarital skirmish, but it is certainly the most public — an embarrassment which has upset not only his long-suffering wife, but also his parents, Fernando, 83, and Adele, 80.

Married for 61 years, they are still quite clearly in love, and are obviously saddened by the humiliation their son is causing their daughter-in-law. "Adua is a very good person, she has known Luciano since they were at school," says his father.

Adua, 59, has denied rumours of a divorce on numerous occasions. This time, however, she has been pushed into issuing an ultimatum.

The warning came in two stages. First Adua changed the nameplate on the front gate of their home to her maiden name, Veroni.

Then, on Tuesday, in an open letter to the press, she sent the philandering Pavarotti a clear and poignant message. He had, she said, been courted by many women over the years, but had always dealt with their approaches wisely. "This time, however, perhaps because of age and the type of aggression he has faced, he has behaved in a way which has brought him to the point of no return and to choices which I hope will make him happy."

She continues: "I think that after the initial euphoria, this could lead him to a dangerous and sad situation."

She reminds her husband of 35 years that it was she who helped to build his career. Without her, she predicts, he will face a life of loneliness. He partly owes his huge success to his well-tested lies: "He will lose all this and will have to build something new... he will have to be sure that this is the truth."

A visit to Modena, near Bologna, shows how solid these ties are. The Maestro, as his staff all call him, has

Life's too short to wait for a Naughtie question

IF SOMEONE has to be tossed overboard from Radio 4's *Today* programme to ensure a safe berth for the veteran Peter Hobday, then sorry, but surely it must be James Naughtie.

Face it, who has time for Mr Naughtie first thing in the morning? Sure, he's a darling chap. Chirpy. Sing-song. Aberdeenian burr. On the ball, well-informed, courteous. No, not courteous. Too courteous. That's the trouble.

The time-delay mechanism of his questions means that he is the

only Radio 4 interviewer in danger of being interrupted by one of his own guests chipping in with "I'm sorry, I really must cut you short there".

What happened to the breezy question, the whimsy, and news of Mr Hobday's camellia? Mr Naughtie, an opera buff, may be an expert on *La Dame aux camélias* in *La traviata*, but

mid-life crisis which has got out of hand. Many of the Maestro's friends are unimpressed by Nicoletta; she is dull, they point out, and Adua would have continued to have turned a blind eye if the affair had only been conducted more discreetly.

A divorce, certainly, would

have a devastating effect on the singer's close-knit community. While Pavarotti has many years of singing left, his health is questionable. He has been obese since his twenties and mobility is increasingly difficult.

And, in his wife's words: "When the sunset comes, the sense of limitation and loneliness which hits successful people especially, has to be supported by old, well-rooted, tested relationships." If Pavarotti does not heed such advice, he may be making the greatest mistake of his career.

He has no plans to retire but this may be forced upon him.

and still be back in time to catch the end of the question.

And while he's packing his bags for greater things, could we please have a little consistency in the pronunciation department? If Naughtie really must be pronounced *Nochtee*, why not describe haughty *Heseltine* as *hochty*, or John Major's predication as *frocht*?

• Tomorrow, Andrew Yates says Sue MacGregor should stand down

Letters, page 19

March 1, 1996. Swatch presents its Internet site that presents Nam June Paik who presents his first Swatch Art Spe-

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INTERVIEW

The squalid dossiers that riled a lawyer

The dossiers were always the same. Pathetic little boxes of private eyes' reports, pictures of husbands parked outside mistresses' front doors, and grubby black and white photographs of clothing strewn across a double bed.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern used to work rapidly and distastefully through these epitaphs to marriages long dead. Twelve every Saturday morning, sometimes 15. At ten guineas a case, the pay was sufficient to feed his young family, and the view of a very junior barrister was scarcely relevant.

But the notion of divorce pinned on one person's guilt enraged him. "I used to look at those pictures on my desk and think what a pointless crazy system. Yet I didn't want to demolish it without putting something in its place. And in those days I never expected to be able to change the law."

Forty years have passed, and today the Lord Chancellor will take his place in the House of Lords for possibly the most crucial vote in his brilliant career. His future, his reputation yet may hang on, whether a dangerously large group of rebellious peers decides to sabotage his long-cherished plan for no-fault divorce; but his concern is not for himself.

"I'm concerned about presenting the thing to the best of my ability, and about not provoking unnecessary troubles with my colleagues, because that is the last thing I would seek to do."

Had one stumbled across Lord Mackay a year ago, it is unlikely that he would have forecast the nightmare that his Family Law Bill has become. A seemingly uncontroversial piece of legislation, it trundled through all the appropriate stages before encountering, some months ago, the first stage-managed fit of wrath from the moral majority, egged on by the *Daily Mail*.

So ill-founded were some of the criticisms that a number of the paper's own journalists distanced themselves from the campaign. The Lord Chancellor, meanwhile, proceeded unshaken. To him the two central planks — the no-fault provision and the 12-month waiting time — seemed to provide the best solution for estranged couples and their children. To his critics, led by Baroness Young, they were anathema.

By tonight Lord Mackay should know whether his Bill will go back to the Commons with its main proposals intact or in holes. He is, in the circumstances, remarkably calm.

The longest-serving Lord Chancellor and arguably the most reforming and the most intelligent, he is — at a cursory

glance — an unlikely crusader for divorce reform. He is deeply religious, a strict Sabatian, and happily married for the past 37 years to Elizabeth, his second cousin and a former nurse. It is rather odd to find yourself sitting in his office, next to a row of portraits of him with his good friend, the Queen, discussing postnatal depression and working parents.

"I've seen these problems at first hand. And there are lessons in all this for me too. I've had to concentrate on my relationship with my wife."

The Bill apart, his workload is heavy. Yesterday, on the eve of the Lords' vote, he introduced his regulations to restrict legal aid for the wealthy.

But, particularly in the minefield of divorce, Lord Mackay has never been one for the easy ride. And he has not lost his urge to decimate the opposition. On those matters vital, he will not budge.

"I had not expected to be Lord Chancellor. Since I have been given that responsibility, it is right for me to bring this philosophy to bear on one of the most important issues in the country." Is he not, therefore, surprised that the opposition in the Lords should be so vehement?

"I'd like to use the word discussion, not opposition. I admire Lady greyly. But I ask myself does this fault idea contribute to preventing marriage breakdown? The answer is no."

"The current law sends a really strange message: if you're guilty of adultery you can remarry quickly, whereas if you've just drifted apart, you can wait five years. Should the law reward fault?"

Although circumstances have frequently proved him wrong, he is hopeful. But he knows that today's verdict rests on a knife edge.

Little, superficial, troubles the Lord Chancellor, for he is the calmest of men, although he recalls the mixed emotions of seeing his own daughter married.

"She was so young — only 21 — and although she knew exactly what she was doing, I still had this sense that I was losing her." He remembers both his sorrow and his happiness for her and contrasts those feelings, consciously or not, with his first experiences of failed marriages — with the white faces of the petitioners who faced him, every Saturday morning, wishing only to be parted forever and having instead to present their sad little boxes of proof.

It has taken Lord Mackay four decades to produce a better package. He does not intend to see it fail.

MARY RIDDELL



Fernando and Adèle Pavarotti at their son's restaurant. Mention Nicoletta's name and their smiles disappear



With the Save Peter Hobday Campaign gathering pace, Joe Joseph says it is time for James Naughtie to step aside

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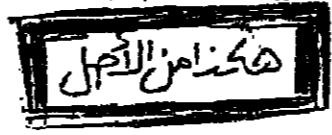
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16/02/96
20/02/96

How Castro misjudged America

Mark Falcoff explains the public support for Clinton's sanctions

The history of America's relations with Castro's Cuba is marked by crises followed by long periods of policy stagnation. The uproar over the shooting down last weekend of two unarmed civilian planes piloted by Cuban-Americans operating from bases in Florida will repeat this pattern. Once again Castro was shown to be capable of disproportionate brutality in dealing with challenges to his power. In this case it was the prospect of a few hundred political leaflets falling to earth, urging his people to do something which almost none would be foolhardy enough to attempt — namely, to take to the streets and demand the overthrow of the regime.

More surprising, perhaps, is the 44 per cent support for military intervention in Cuba in the event of a popular uprising — exceeded only by the support for a similar response if Russia were to invade Western Europe or Iraq to invade Saudi Arabia.

Although its partisan critics sometimes claim otherwise, the Clinton Administration has no particular sympathy with Castro or his regime, even though the Cuban dictator often describes himself as well disposed towards the President, and has sometimes cited with approval Clinton's opposition to the Vietnam War.

Castro forgets that the Administration is full of veterans of the human rights movement of the 1970s and 1980s. One of these, Harriet Babbitt, now Clinton's Ambassador to the Organisation of American States, was instrumental in obtaining the release from prison several years ago of the Cuban poet María Elena Cruz Varela.

At the same time, many of Clinton's people are veteran critics of previous Administrations which were prepared to do business with anti-communist dictators. They see no reason to alter their standards merely because the last repressive regime in Latin America happens to fly the banners of the Left rather than that of the Right. Richard Nuccio, the President's principal policy adviser on Cuba, has lately been making this point in his efforts to prick the conscience of America's allies in Europe, many of whom seem to feel that communism in Cuba is merely an expression of exotic tropical tastes.

Without doubt there is a deeply personal aspect to the feud between Castro and the United States. This grudge-match undoubtedly colours the reaction of other countries: indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that on the Cuban issue every country brings to bear so much of its views of Cuban communism as its attitudes towards the United States.

It is understandable, if not particularly commendable, that Canada or France or Iraq or Mexico might choose to use Cuba as a means to achieve some measure of independence from (or defiance of) the world's remaining superpower. The United States cannot be expected to embrace the same attitudes, least of all when its own political traditions, public opinion, and the facts of the case point to the continuing need for vigilance.

The author is resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.



Boosted by a boom

Accelerating monetary growth is good news for the Tories' election hopes, but it is also inflationary

Most people have been assuming for years that the Conservatives were bound to lose the next general election. I certainly have, and I still think it probable. Yet the British economy is beginning to look rather similar to the way it did 15 months before the 1987 election. Margaret Thatcher won that one with an overall majority of 100. If it is the economy which decides elections, the Conservatives' chances must be much better than they looked a few months ago, even though they have continued to make mistakes and suffer embarrassments. Perhaps the winter of their discontent will now be made glorious summer by the sun of economic expansion. It has happened before.

The financial pages sometimes tell one more about the future of politics than the big political stories. This week the political story was Scott. Yet one point about the Scott affair was hardly mentioned. It is all history. Geoffrey Howe's famous guidelines were first formulated in 1984, 12 years ago. The Matrix Churchill prosecution was in 1992, four years ago. Sir Richard Scott spent three years on his inquiry. The debates were interesting, and the issue of open government is important, but these matters are not going to decide the next general election.

Hardly anyone outside the City will have paid attention to Tuesday's report in the *Wall Street Journal* of the fall in the American bond market.

US government bonds fell amid uncertainty over the course of monetary policy and a failing dollar. The report caused a stock market sell-off that started last week. The fear that the Federal Reserve will be keeping interest rates steady for the time being has resulted in hedge funds selling. Last week Morgan Stanley & Co told clients that "a short position is warranted in the US bond market". The 30-year bond shed more than two points last week after Mr Greenspan told a congressional committee that the economy's recent weakness would be temporary.

Alan Greenspan has just been appointed to a third term as chairman of the Fed.

This *Wall Street Journal* report has much more bearing on the likely outcome of the next general election in Britain than the whole battle over Scott, even including the Government's quasi-miraculous one-vote majority.

Interest rates in general will be somewhat higher than the market had been expecting. Good economic news thus becomes bad financial news.

The leading British monetary forecaster, Professor Tim Congdon, has already taken the same view. In the Garrard & National Monthly Economic Review for February, he writes that "real broad money growth appears to be reviving, after a long period of stagnation in the early 1990s. The conclusion has to be that the current sluggishness in world economic activity is only a passing phase".

In the past year, as Tim Congdon's charts show, real growth of broad money has been faster in Britain and the United States than at any time since 1989, although Germany, France and Italy are still well below their 1989 level. Japan is also inflating the money supply, rather fast.

A great deal of experience from many countries shows that changes in real broad money forecast changes in output six months or so later. That experience led Alan Greenspan to make his confident forecast of American growth in the second half of this

year. Both in the United States and Britain, monetary growth in the past year is predicting stronger economic expansion in the rest of 1996 and into 1997. This period covers both the American and the British elections.

Presidents do not often lose elections, but Jimmy Carter did in 1980, and George Bush did in 1992. Both defeats occurred when the growth of real broad money was falling. The intervening Republican victories had coincided with periods of monetary expansion. In Britain, real broad money was flat in 1992, when John Major had his remarkable victory, but it was falling in 1974 and 1979, when Conservative governments were turned out. There is a close connection between the growth of real money and the "feel-good" factor, and a close connection between the feel-good factor and election victories. It does not always work that way, but it often does.

Now that real money is expanding rapidly, real incomes will also increase. Any period of prolonged real money growth causes asset values to rise as well. In Britain, the stock market and farmland are both buoyant: forecasts are now being made of a recovery in the housing market. For the middle classes, the feel-good factor is much the same thing as their personal balance sheets. By the end of 1996, most people's net assets will be looking healthier than at any time since 1989. Their assets will be rising in value, interest rates are likely to rise only moderately. Unemployment will continue to fall.

There is no master world economist who manipulates the world credit cycle for the benefit of the Conservative Party, although presidential elections do influence the American credit cycle. Bill Clinton is working for his own re-election and cannot help also working to re-elect

John Major. The British Conservatives seem to have got the cycle right this time. Happy days are here again, and they are likely to last until after polling day.

Two questions arise. Will the electorate forget how much they have disliked the Government over the past four years, and vote Conservative again because they have been feeling richer in the year before the election? Will a rapidly rising money supply cause a return to inflation?

Nobody knows the answer to the first question. Sometimes, as in 1964, an election can be lost even though real money supply is rising. The money supply is not an automatic machine for re-electing governments. However, most voters are most likely to be personally better off in a year's time than they are now. That must help the Conservative recovery and threaten the Labour lead. Of course, a couple of by-elections or defections could prevent the Conservatives from reaching 1997, and the improvement has barely yet begun.

Economists also dispute the relationship between monetary growth and inflation. I think Tim Congdon is right: "it might be an old grandfather record, but the tiresome message has to be repeated. In the long run, 10 per cent broad money growth cannot be reconciled with inflation of 2.5 per cent or less." That is the lesson of history, including the Lawson boom of the late 1980s.

Between 1980 and 1987, real broad money growth in Britain rose from minus 5 to plus 15 per cent. This created an enormous increase in house prices, and it helped to win two elections. It was followed by inflation, which peaked at around 8 per cent in 1990. After that came the recession. If the money supply continues to grow at around 10 per cent, inflation will follow, and recession will follow.

I do not take a purely mechanistic view of politics, but I think the present growth of the money supply justifies these forecasts. For the next 12 months, incomes and employment will be rising in Britain. So will asset values, including houses, and probably the stock market — though that has risen already. Most people will feel richer and more confident. This is bound to boost the Conservative recovery as the election approaches.

In 1997, the bill may be presented in terms of higher inflation and higher interest rates, but by then the election will be over.

Old age and new Labour
Chris Smith outlines his pension plans

Reading Woodrow Wyatt's article on pensions policy in Tuesday's Times, one would have thought that we were all living in the best of all possible worlds and that Peter Lilley was set to lead us into a new shining era of universal contentment. The trouble is, this bears precious little relation to reality.

Lord Wyatt conveniently forgot that the relative value of the basic state pension has declined during the Tory years, from 22 per cent of average earnings to below 15 per cent, and it is still falling. He forgot that there are nearly 750,000 pensioners, who are living on an income below the level of income support.

When it comes to the provision that most people make for a second pension on top of the basic pension, the picture is almost as gloomy. There are many good, strong occupational pension schemes — the £600 billion of pension investment that is so often mentioned derives principally from these long-standing occupational schemes — but in the past few years the number of people in occupational schemes has actually fallen, with up to a million people being tempted out into personal pensions when they might well have been better advised to stay put. The framework put in place by the Government has meant that most personal pensions carry extremely high administrative costs and charges.

Some years ago, the Tories decided to mount an aggressive campaign to persuade people to take out personal pensions, instead of occupational schemes or Serps, the state scheme. They succeeded far too well, and millions opted out into personal pension schemes. Many are now worse off than they would otherwise have been.

At the same time, the Government has cut the value of Serps benefits by half, which means that Serps pensioners will be much worse off when they reach retirement than they once expected.

To those of my colleagues who argue that all an incoming Labour government needs to do is restore Serps to its former glory, I sound a warning. For doing so would not prevent a future Mr Lilley from cutting the value of the benefits once again. Because Serps depends on the benevolence of each younger generation to meet the costs of its elders' pensions, it will always be liable to raids of this kind. I should like to put in place something more robust, and more secure for the saver.

That is why Labour is looking closely at policy on second-tier pensions. I believe we need to look at a funded mechanism, in which an individual's pension fund builds up steadily over time, growing as a result of judicious investment by pension trustees. Already, all those in work are required to put 4.8 per cent of their National Insurance contributions into a second pension scheme, whether Serps, a personal or an occupational scheme. I would not wish to increase this compulsion on employees. Through a partnership between government and the private sector, I want to develop a better way of using this existing contribution, perhaps topped up with voluntary payments.

It must, however, be possible to provide a better return to existing personal pensions. It is all very well for Woodrow Wyatt to say that some of these have shown a 10 per cent return in the past year, but this is entirely because of the growth in the investment market. The returns would have been even better if administrative costs were not in some cases as high as 25 per cent. The way to reduce these costs is to have individual savings with collective funds, so that savers have their own pension pots — about which they are regularly informed — but as parts of a strong collective investment vehicle that keeps costs to a minimum.

Some have argued — most notably my parliamentary colleague Frank Field — that a national pension corporation should be established, at arm's length from government, to carry out this investment role. I do not, however, consider a single national body of this kind as sensible. It would make it harder to drive down costs through competition; it would offer too little freedom of choice for the investor; and it might create a monster to dominate the investment market in Britain.

It would be better to have a range of funds available, with savers free to choose whether to invest or whether to continue with an occupational or private scheme. Giving savers greater choice and power over their own savings is crucial in devising a new scheme.

Other countries, such as Finland, Chile and Australia, have begun to develop second pension schemes with some of these characteristics. None of them is perfect, but we can learn from them. Partly through dogma, but mainly through incompetence, the Government has saddled us with an expensive and inappropriate framework for pensions. I want to see a Labour government putting something better in its place.

The author is Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security.

Taste buddy

THE QUEEN has appointed a new food-taster. After losing the previous incumbent to the Ritz, she has poached the banqueting manager of Claridge's.

As Assistant to the Master of the Household (Food Division), Andrew Jarman's task will be to oversee catering arrangements for Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace and her other residences, and, in the meantime, on HMY Britannia as well.

He was recommended to Her Majesty by the manager of Claridge's, David Broadhead. "Really, the job equates to being food and beverage manager for the Royal Family," says Broadhead. "Andrew Jarman is very erudite, and I am sure he will fit well into the household."

The tradition of Buckingham Palace poaching from Claridge's — reportedly one of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's favourite watering holes — goes back some years. The late Sir Hugh Wonner, who was chairman of the Savoy, which owns Claridge's, used to tip the Queen the wink as soon as the right sort of chap came along. Sir Hugh was Clerk to the Royal Kitchens, so the post has usually

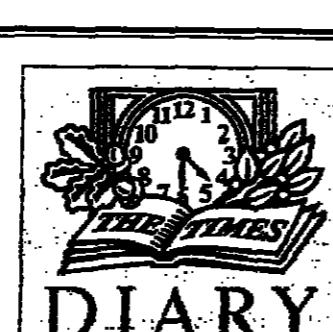
been filled by someone from within the company.

Dream on

THE EXTRAORDINARY rumour sweeping the first-night party after Phillip Schofield's return to London in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was that the musical.

"The only thing is, I can't sing," she said. This was dismissed as a trifling obstacle. "Four years ago I hadn't sung in my life," said Schofield. "At school, I was kept out of Joseph because I couldn't sing a note, now I've done it hundreds of times. I'm even confident enough to wear the costumes." Confidence indeed, given the skimpily Ancient Egyptian mini-skirt he has to wear.

Sweet sorrow
LET'S HOPE the divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales will not be as messy as the most recent divorce among the Prince's ancestors. Prince Albert's father, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, divorced his wife Louise when she



Lottery draw, is soon to star in a

ran off with a German count. She was banned from seeing her two sons ever again, and died in exile at a tender age. The Duke subsequently remarried — to his niece.

Caw!

AT LONDON ZOO they are hoping that the female's traditional leap year prerogative to propose to the male will resolve a bizarre love triangle currently roiling feathers in the aviary. After years of blissful cohabitation, Sam and Jo, the blue and gold macaws, have had their peace shattered by the arrival of Brian, a green-winged macaw.

"Brian is 15, very experienced and rather keen on Sam. She is rather shy and naive and has been sitting between the two chaps."

In a storm
THE WORLD of port wine is flushed with excitement. Talk among tasters is that 1994 will be declared a vintage year. The last vintage was 1991, and port buffs are smacking their crusted lips.

Serena Sutcliffe, a wine expert at Sotheby's, believes the declaration will be made soon. "People who have babies born in a vintage year get very excited. Lots of cases will be laid down."

Bottom line
BRUCE WILLIS was upstaged on Tuesday at the first London Restaurant Awards, where he took the prize for best themed restaurant for Planet Hollywood, which he owns with other stars.

A glamorous transvestite, doubtless inspired by the antics of pop singer Jarvis Cocker at the Brit Awards, decided to hop on stage just as Willis was collecting his prize from Mariella Frostrup. The interloper tried to grab Willis's bottom, and nearly succeeded, since

says a beady-eyed biologist. "It's starting to get acrimonious so she'll have to choose."

his burly bouncers were paralysed by the sight of the black wig and shimmering dress. Only the intervention of the event's well-padded organiser, Bruce Burgess, saved Willis.

• The announcement that the Princess of Wales had agreed to a divorce was probably the subject of an earnest discussion between two learned gentlemen yesterday in the Cholmondeley Room of the House of Lords. The Prince of Wales was seen lurching there with Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor — who is, of course, architect of the planned divorce reforms.

P.H.S



TIMING FOR TALKS

With hopes and foreboding, the Irish peace process resumes

Timetables dominated yesterday's relaunch of the peace process. Agreement between London and Dublin was accelerated to ensure that John Major and the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, could unveil their accord before catching their flight east for another summit. The agreement itself set a strict timetable for intensive discussions and then elections with all-party talks firmly fixed for June 10.

Mr Major and Mr Bruton might not have felt quite the same sense of urgency about the need for a new communiqué if the IRA had not resumed its bombing campaign. Apologists for the IRA argued it was provoked beyond endurance by the British Government's delays in moving to inclusive negotiations. The IRA leaders now have the date that they demanded for talks, and have seen the pace of the peace process advance dramatically. Some may feel that ground has been reasonably yielded. Others, though relieved at the extent of agreement between the two Governments, can be forgiven for a sense of foreboding.

There are certainly grounds for hope in the firm commitment from both Governments to elections before talks. Barely three weeks ago Mr Bruton claimed elections would be petrol on the flames in Ulster. Far from being an incendiary device, elections are an affirmation that democracy is the path to progress. Negotiators need mandates and mandates need to be refreshed.

But there are causes for concern. The first is the brevity of the time allowed to establish not just the method of elections to a talks forum, but also the shape of such a forum. Then there is the wisdom of holding an all-Ireland referendum at the same time as any elections. Ten days have been set aside to resolve these intensely sensitive matters. If agreement has not been reached then London and Dublin will impose a solution. Agreement on so much in such a short space of time is unlikely. Imposition of structures from above, without the agreement of all parties, could see another aspect of Ulster's future being decided above the heads of its people. That would not build confidence.

An all-Ireland referendum would set

another unfortunate precedent. Determining any issue, even one as apparently anodyne as the rejection of violence, on such a basis is an implicit embrace of Irish nationalism. Bracketing Ulster with Eire in such a vote, and excluding the rest of the British Isles, could appear to be a repudiation of the democratically-expressed wishes of Ulster's majority to be considered citizens of the United Kingdom.

The most profound cause for concern is the leeway apparently allowed to Sinn Féin to hew it to the table. The demand that a ceasefire be reinstated before Sinn Féin can join negotiations is welcome but no more than should be expected. The devils are in the detail. Sinn Féin will have a right to contest elections to a talks forum, and then take up its seats without making a commitment permanently to abandon violence.

A pledge to advance exclusively by peaceful means and a tangible commitment to disarming will not be entry requirements to talks, simply the first item on the agenda. If the IRA calls a ceasefire, without any proof of its permanence, then its army council members, standing on a Sinn Féin ticket, could be at the talks table in three months' time. Once there, the pressure will be to keep them there. The insistence that a gesture towards disarming had to come before all-party talks was long ago abandoned. The British Government must not weaken again.

London and Dublin have done everything that democrats could, and perhaps more than they should, to wean republicans away from violence. The patience and sincerity of the two Prime Ministers in their pursuit of peace compels admiration. If there is now no new ceasefire there can be no excuses. The Provisions will be pariahs.

But, even if the IRA does call another ceasefire, the guard cannot drop. Guarantees that would have indicated a republican commitment to permanent peace have already been relaxed. In the weeks ahead the people who will demand, and deserve, reassurance are the great majority of Northern Ireland's citizens who have endured so much and who wish to see the Province's future decided by democracy.

DIANA AND DIVORCE

Time to draw a line under the past

The Princess of Wales's agreement to her husband's request to a divorce promises to draw a welcome line under what had become a protracted and painful parting of the royal ways. The couple's years of separation without divorce were messy and sad to behold. Every friendship became a focus for the press. The Princess's constitutional position was left uncertain. Life had become particularly awkward for the two young princes.

When couples part, there is always a hope, initially at least, that reconciliation can be achieved. Such an outcome was clearly no longer a possibility for the Prince and Princess of Wales. Better that a divorce should take place, preferably in as civilised a fashion as possible, than that the two should remain in limbo any longer.

The Princess of Wales can now start a new life. But divorce from the Prince need not entail an abandonment of the ambitions that she outlined in her *Panorama* interview. As Diana, Princess of Wales, she can still perform a useful role in charitable work. If she wants to enlarge upon that role overseas, as a humanitarian ambassador, so much the better. Her popular appeal is likely to be undiminished by the divorce. But one advantage of being her own woman should be that she feels liberated from many of the constraints of royal protocol.

When the subject of a divorce first arose, there was inevitably a worry that the Princess might be forced into such an action

against her will. This now looks unlikely. More than three years have elapsed since the announcement of the couple's separation, and they had grown apart long before that. The Princess has had plenty of time to reflect upon the implications of divorce. It must be more palatable to her than the current unresolved position. And she has clearly come to terms with the idea that she will never become Queen.

Constitutionally, a divorce simplifies matters too. When the separation was first announced in the Commons, John Major told an incredulous chamber that it would make no difference: the Princess of Wales would still be Queen at her estranged husband's side. This made little sense at the time, and the longer the separation has lasted, the more extraordinary it has seemed. Doubtless the Princess would never have acted in so undignified a fashion as her husband's royal forebear; but the prospect of a repeat of Queen Caroline's behaviour, hammering at the door of Westminster Abbey as King George IV was being crowned inside, was too embarrassing to contemplate.

Now the country can rest at ease. And so can the Princess. The Queen is quite right to allow her to remain in Kensington Palace with her own staff, and not to send her into exile, either at home or abroad. She will always, after all, be the mother of the future King. In that capacity, she deserves to lead a dignified and useful life.

GOING FOR A BYGONE

Any garage sale that is good for Jackie O is good for America

A man has not lived life to the full until he has died in the United States. No, nor woman either. For the everything-must-go garage sale of the effects of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis forms a lifetime's archive of her possessions. And such is the interest of Americans in this last chance to buy a piece of Camelot that Sotheby's has already received more than 16,000 orders for its doorstopper catalogue. Raffles will have to be held to select who wins admission to the three-day sale in April as well as the viewing days before it.

A garage sale is the opposite to a car-boot sale. In the latter the British unload knick-knacks, usually knicks without a knack, sometimes not even theirs to start with. But in a garage sale, everything goes: Friends can buy the pictures, the plates and the gowns their dear departed was wearing when she last had them to dinner. Anyone can bid for the furniture and fittings of the former First Lady's life, from the trivial to the portentous. The Lesotho Diamond is up for sale, but so is the maroon suit Jackie Kennedy wore when she gave her famous televised tour of the White House and the lighter of the cover chain-smoker. Our nearest equivalent is the farm sale, when the neighbours bid for relics from the tractor to obsolete milk churns.

Few sales, however, can be as glamorous as that of Jackie Kennedy. For in her life she cultivated her legend for style unknown in politicians and their spouses, and in her death it has not left her. When it comes, the

garage sale for Hillary Clinton may be as revealing but cannot hope to be as fashionable. Psychedelic headbands and LPs from Yale in the Sixties, presentation trinkets to the minor governor's lady and uninteresting legal files cannot compete with the wardrobe, hats and even the high-school French grammar of Jackie Kennedy.

They manage inheritance better in America. That outwardly mobile society is less sentimental and less sticky about the incidental furniture of life. They look forward to new frontiers rather than backward to old legacies. Ancient Egyptian celebrities took their stuff with them. Romans disliked their heirs and tried to get through their property before they left it for good. In Europe the dead man's possessions are jealously divided among the family. They are then put away in the attic or indeed the garage, until resurrected to fame or disappointment for some television programme pricing bygone objects. Clothes used to be presented by noblesse oblige to the servants and deserving poor of the parish. They then tend to be taken in black bags to charity shops.

As Alan Clark exemplified in his notorious remark about Michael Heseltine, the British take a snobbish satisfaction from not having to buy their own furniture. For we are greedy magpies of things. But for clothes and the lesser stuff of life, we should suit ourselves. And like the Americans, look forward not back.

GAVIN ASHENDEN
Synod member,
Southern Universities,
University of Sussex,
The Meeting House,
Palmer, Brighton, Sussex.
February 24.

HUMANE PRIORITIES AND WEAPON SALES

From the Director of Oxfam and others

Sir, The Scott report exposes the fact that in decisions on weapons sales, financial gain is given priority over international security, human rights and development.

The UK accounts for over 20 per cent of the weapons pouring into the world's poorest countries. These exports have greatly exacerbated some of the horrific conflicts of recent years. The Government has promised a consultation paper on the whole system of UK arms exports, and we urge it to adopt a more responsible attitude to the sale of weapons.

Sir Richard Scott's report shows the need for arms exports to be based on clear, objective criteria, which should be established at international level to negotiate arguments that "if we don't sell weapons, someone else will". In 1991 and 1992 the UK, as part of the EU, agreed eight criteria which should govern arms exports. These seek to prevent sales to countries with poor human rights records, regions of instability, military aggressors and dictatorial regimes. They could be highly effective but they are non-binding and have been simply disregarded by many member states.

We urge the UK to ensure the strict application of the criteria by introducing a binding European code of conduct on the arms trade into the Maastricht treaty at the forthcoming intergovernmental conference. This vital opportunity to stem irresponsible sales of weapons to the developing world should not be missed.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRYER,
Director, Oxfam.

PAUL EAVIS
(Director, Saferworld).

JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI
(Director, CAROD).

HARRIET LAMB
(Acting Director,
World Development Movement).

IAN LINDEN
(General Secretary, Catholic Institute for International Relations).

DANIEL PLESCH
(Director, British American Security Information Council).

KUMAR RUPESINGHE
(Secretary General, International Alert).

MICHAEL TAYLOR
(Director, Christian Aid),
c/o Saferworld.

3rd Floor, 33-34 Alfred Place, WC1.

February 27.

Al Fayed rejection

From Mr Bill Kearns

Sir, The capacity of the present Government to perpetuate injustice is remarkable. At a time when the Scott report dominates the headlines the continuing injustice to the Al Fayed's, signified by the appropriately named Mr Justice Judge, should not be overlooked (report, February 27).

The Al Fayed generosity to good causes, the restoration of Harrods and their contribution to the economic well-being of this country alongside their long-time residence should more than qualify them for citizenship.

There is still time for the Home Secretary to be mindful of the implied strictures of Mr Justice Judge and do the sensible and decent thing and reverse his decision.

Yours ever,
BILL KEARNES,
II Court Royal Mews,
Northlands Road,
Southampton, Hampshire.

February 27.

Episcopal pay

From the Reverend Gavin R. P. Ashenden

Sir, The Reverend Anthony Cane (letter, February 24) invokes shame on members of General Synod and the Bishop of Chester for not abolishing the pay differentials for bishops.

Bishop Baughen captured the hearts and minds of synod as he described the particular practical difficulties he faced in his ministry (report, February 15). He asked only that they be taken into account in whatever levelling measures synod might take.

It might have decided to abolish the differentials, which help pay for the upkeep of large buildings used for episcopal pastoral care, but it would then have had to dedicate itself to organising a complex scale of compensating expenses. These would have had to include a long and esoteric list of special factors, varying from wives' earnings to numbers of children and years of pastoral experience.

A minor injustice might have been remedied. But then many synod members preferred to avoid the prospect of opening up endless hours of argument over a labyrinthine system of clergy expenses.

There is a sense in this synod that in the middle of the Decade of Evangelism and at a time of growing social crisis and secular despair there are other priorities which should be engaging the minds and the prayers of Christ's Church in England.

Yours truly,
GAVIN ASHENDEN
Synod member,
Southern Universities,
University of Sussex,
The Meeting House,
Palmer, Brighton, Sussex.
February 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

PAINFUL CHOICES ON 'TODAY' VOICES

From Mr Charles Stephens

Sir, You report (February 26) a campaign by friends of Peter Hobday to keep this national morning treasure on the BBC *Today* programme. How can I become a friend of a friend of Hobday? We must do everything possible to scupper this outrageous attempt to squeeze such a witty and skillful presenter as Mr Hobday off our morning airwaves.

We may have to call for a National Hobday.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES STEPHENS,
9 Merrick Square, SE1.
February 26.

From Dr D. W. Phillips

Sir, Your contributor Giles Coren has overstepped the mark in his intemperate attack on Anna Ford ("Don't let them silence the voice of *Today*", February 27). Miss Ford is unique among broadcasters in her impeccable command of English, respecting not only the correct pronunciation of individual words, but the natural rhythm of the language as well.

Her apparent aloofness on the television screen also works to her advantage. Most of her colleagues only manage to make fools of themselves when, as they far too frequently do, they abandon their proper role of newscaster and assume the mantle of the interrogator.

Yours truly,
DAVID PHILLIPS,
1 Post Office Cottages,
Shorlenton, Canterbury, Kent.
February 27.

From Mr David A. Pearl

Sir, You report that Mr Roger Mosey, editor of Radio 4's *Today*, wants a younger audience and more women listeners.

Why is this? What is the optimum number of female or young listeners? Is it an absolute number or a proportion? If a proportion, is it sufficient to deter males and older listeners from tuning in, so that a more "balanced" (but possibly smaller) audience results?

I listen to *Today* whenever I can. It is a programme of the highest quality, a great glory for the BBC. If any groups of our heterogeneous population are missing it, it is their loss. Let the presenters present. And long may the editor edit.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. PEARL,
4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
February 27.

From Mrs Sue Dennis

Sir, No matter that *Today* has the ear of the nation (or that it is Cabinet ministers' essential morning briefing), if Peter Hobday goes I shall be turning to Capital Radio for my early morning listening, and will be lobbying my colleagues "below stairs" in the Commons to do likewise. The update on his Camellia every now and again helps to put politics into perspective.

Yours sincerely,
SUE DENNIS
(House of Commons secretary),
House of Commons, SW1.
February 28.

Fears of Communism in Russia

From Mr Oleg Gordievsky

Sir, Anatole Kalter's wish ("Why Russia needs Communists", February 20) that Gorbachev and the Communists return to power in Russia is not so very eccentric as it may seem to many people: generations of Western liberals, inspired by curiously masochistic motives, have in turn admired Stalin, Mao, Tito, Ho Chi Minh, Castro and even Ceausescu.

Kalter's main argument, that the Communist Party should never have been removed from power since it was important to the administrative and economic structure of Russia, is ludicrous. Following this logic, one can say that slavery should not have been abolished in the USA since it was vital to the economic and social fabric of America; and Nazism should not have been destroyed since it was extremely important for the prosperity, might and morale of the German nation.

The Communist Party and Gorbachev led the country predictably to a complete dead end. Remember how, at the end of 1990, all the countries of the West sent food parcels to the USSR? After Yeltsin's and Gaidar's economic reforms, which were made possible only because the Communists had been removed from power, the problem of the lack of produce which had plagued the Russian people for 75 years disappeared almost overnight. So did the queues.

Russia's problem is not that it is not being governed by the Communist Party, but that Communist ways of thinking are still too prevalent as a result of decades of indoctrination and that there are too many Communist dinosaurs in all administrative and political structures.

Yours etc.,
OLEG GORDIEVSKY,
c/o A. M. Heath & Co,
79 St Martin's Lane, WC2.

February 23.

From Mr Leonid Vladimirov

Sir, Anatole Kalter believes that Communists have an "apparent ability to restore order and proper government in Russia" and, what is more, that they will not try to renationalise property or go back on the most important aspects of market reform.

If 74 years of Communist rule in Russia is anything to go by, then one may only expect from them more of the same – coercion, oppression and central planning. The party's present leader, Gennadi Zyuganov, is a Stalinist; in his recently published book, *Veryu v Rossiyu* [*I Believe in Russia*], he lamented that Stalin died too early, claiming that had he lived longer he would have made Communist power in Russia irreversible.

The recent gains by Communists in Russian parliamentary elections were a sign of despair among the millions of "new poor" in Yeltsin's Russia, and Yeltsin is to be blamed not for his abolition of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union but for his hesitant behaviour after the failed Communist coup of 1991.

Yet the economic reforms introduced by Gaidar have not stopped, and Russian economic prospects are not so bleak as a year ago. Russia still has free elections and, astonishingly, a free press. Communists, if they come to power, cannot but aggravate the economic situation, remove democratic freedoms and continue the bloodshed in Chechnya.

Yours sincerely,
L. VLADIMIROV,
25 Wesley Square, WI.
February 20.

From Mr J. B. Laine

Sir, It is hardly surprising that "the succession of the Dukes of Atholl has not been straightforward" (Obituary, February 28), as it seems the

OBITUARIES

JEFFREY QUILL

Jeffrey Quill, OBE, AFC, test pilot, died on February 20 aged 83. He was born on February 1, 1913.

FOR his work on the development of the Spitfire, Jeffrey Quill stands out in aviation history. Indeed, his name has a place alongside that of Reginald Mitchell, the aircraft's brilliant designer. It was Quill who advanced the Spitfire from a promising, but untried, prototype to become (with the Hurricane) the instrument of the Royal Air Force's decisive victory in the Battle of Britain. From that point it went on to take a leading part in gaining vital air superiority over Europe.

Jeffrey Quill was the exemplar of a new breed of test pilots, skilled and meticulous men who brought a fresh dimension of analysis to their task. From his first flight in the hand-built Spitfire prototype, on March 26, 1936, to his last, in a veteran Spitfire VA, almost exactly 30 years later, he was determined to make the first flights of every variant through which the aircraft went — more than 50 of them.

Quill had come to Vickers, whose works nestled in the banked perimeter of the Brooklands motor racing circuit at Weybridge, in January 1936 at the invitation of Joseph (Mutt) Summers. The latter, a long-established Vickers test pilot, was increasingly concerned with the company's Wellesley and Wellington bombers rather than with the exciting new fighter which was being built at the Vickers subsidiary company, Supermarine of Southampton.

Supermarine needed a specialist test pilot who had recent fighter experience. Jeffrey Quill filled the bill. He had behind him two years with one of the RAF's crack fighter squadrons, No 17. He had demonstrated low flying in Bristol Bulldogs at the Royal Air Force display at Hendon in 1933.

Next, he joined the RAF's specialist meteorological flight, for which he had to make two flights each day, climbing to 18,000 and 25,000 ft to report, at 1,000 ft intervals, on the temperature, humidity and cloud formations all the way up and down again. On landing he had to telephone the results to the Met Office in London. This was far more hazardous than it sounds in these days of comfortable pressurised cabin flying. The meteorological flight's aircraft were obsolescent Armstrong-Whitworth Siskin fighters with open cockpits and only rudimentary blind-flying instruments. Yet, for the first time ever, Quill performed this task,



with 100 per cent regularity every day except Sundays, flying through all weathers between November 1934 and December 1935. This brought him unrivalled all-weather experience — as well as many hazardous moments and forced landings. It also earned him an Air Force Cross.

The hazards continued after his arrival at Vickers; he soon found himself having to bail out of an uncontrollably spinning Wellesley bomber. But shortly afterwards he was concentrating on what was to become his life's work, the development of the Spitfire. Mutt Summers made the first flight in the prototype on March 6, 1936, but thereafter Quill cleared the aircraft, and all subsequent marks of Spitfires, for RAF service.

In the course of the next nine years in which more than 22,500 Spitfires and Seafires (the naval version) were built,

the power of their Rolls-Royce engines was steadily increased from the 1,030 bhp of the prototype to the 2,350 bhp of the Seafire Mark 47, while the maximum speed went up from the 349 mph at 16,000 ft of the Spitfire prototype to the 452 mph at 25,000 ft of the Seafire.

But the subsequent improvements in the performance of the Spitfire did not come easily. More than 20 important modifications included improved view from the cockpit, power landing gear, a device to prevent the engine cutting out through fuel starvation under negative "G" in combat, and most fundamentally of all, greatly improved rate of roll. And from the Mark 20 Spitfire onwards, the eight .303 machine-guns were replaced by 20mm Hispano Cannon — greatly increasing the firepower.

Quill fed in first-hand combat experience in August 1940 at the height of

the Battle of Britain, he flew as a member of No 65 Squadron, shooting down a Messerschmitt 109 and a Heinkel 111 — and narrowly escaping the same fate himself. The experience reinforced his determination to transform the Spitfire's high-speed handling qualities.

He also spent five months with the Fleet Air Arm, during which time he made 75 landings on aircraft carriers at sea. All the while the drive for air superiority over the enemy continued. On June 30, 1944, Jeffrey Quill made the first flight of the newly-designed, prototype Supermarine Spiteful, which boasted a whole new range of advanced features. Although at that late stage in the war only a relatively few Spitefuls (a somewhat unfortunate name) and its naval equivalent the Seafang were built, they represented the ultimate stage in Spitfire development, with top speeds of up to 475 mph.

They were, however, being overtaken by the arrival of the jets. On July 27, 1946, Quill made the first flight of the new Supermarine naval jet-fighter, the E10/44 Attacker powered with the Rolls-Royce RB41 Nene engine.

By this time, however, the years of flying at great heights in unpressurised aircraft had begun to take their toll. When flying the prototype Attacker at close to 40,000 ft in June 1947, Quill passed out. Luckily he came to, in a gentle dive at 10,000 ft. But it was the end of his career as a test pilot. He had clocked up over 5,000 flying hours on more than 90 different types of aircraft.

From 1948, with Vickers-Armstrong, he was closely involved in the development of the unfortunate TSR2 multi-role combat aircraft which, after much promise from successful initial test flights, was cancelled by the Labour Government of the 1960s. He then became sales director for the Anglo-French Jaguar aircraft.

Thereafter he took charge, in Munich, of the marketing and development of the Panavia Tornado multi-role combat aircraft. At the same time he wrote two excellent books: *A Test Pilot's Story* (1983) and *Birth of a Legend — The Spitfire* (1986). For 60 years of such resounding service to his country the OBE he received seems small formal recognition.

Jeffrey Quill was a modest and amusing man, highly regarded by his colleagues and all who knew him.

He married three times and is survived by his third wife Claire and his three daughters.

LORD AVONSIDE

Lord Avonside, PC, QC, Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 1964-84, died on February 22 aged 81. He was born on December 11, 1914.

LORD AVONSIDE was a stern figure who put the fear of God into ill-prepared lawyers, while in private being a man of great kindness. He was highly respected for his abilities but, because of ill-health and other circumstances, made less of a mark on the law than might have been expected.

Ian Hamilton Shearer, as he was before being made a judge, showed his outstanding gifts first at Dunfermline High School and then at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities. He was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1938. When the Second World War broke out, he joined the Royal Artillery, reaching the rank of major, and spent much of his service in Malta during the German aerial bombardment. For its valour the island was awarded the George Cross in 1942.

After demobilisation he had much ground to make up and did so with unusual speed. He was junior counsel for the Inland Revenue in Scotland, a sure sign of exceptional promise, and he took silk in 1952.

The more demanding civil cases, for example those involving tax and valuation, came his way, and he quickly drew admiration for his thoroughness and grasp of principle.

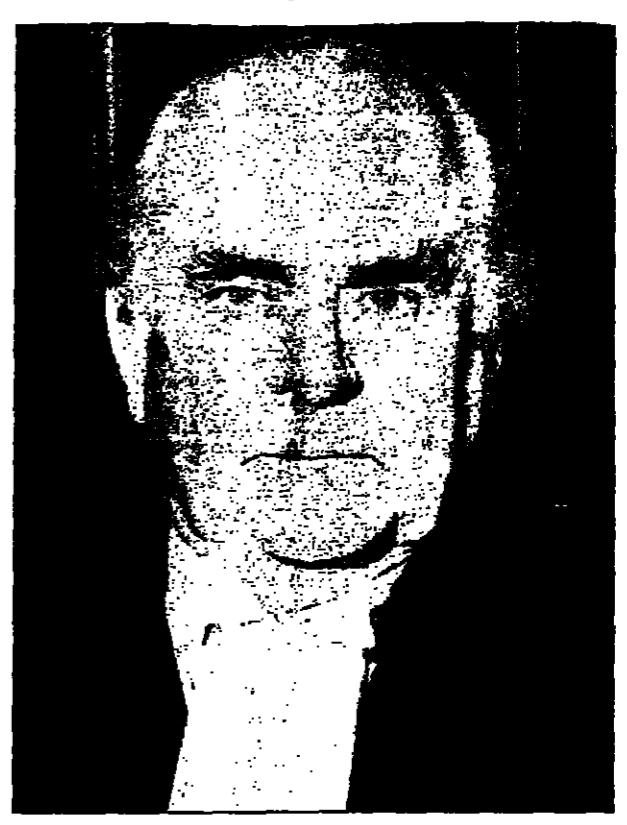
He was chairman of the National Health Service Tribunal, Scotland, 1954-62, of the Scottish Valuation Advisory Council, 1965-68, and of the Lands Valuation Court in 1975 until his retirement in 1984.

He appealed for the Duke of Argyll in the notorious divorce case, which ended in 1961.

Evidence of Margaret Duchess of Argyll's adultery with many men took the form of compromising photographs.

Shearer had to stand down from the case when he was appointed Sheriff of Renfrew and Argyll in 1960, but it later had a curious echo in the Profumo affair.

The duke's counsel were alleged to have concealed, for reasons of state, the identity of a man in one of the explicit photographs. The real reason was that he could not be identified from the visible parts of his anatomy. Lord



Denning, in his report on the Profumo affair in 1963, rejected the charge of suppression out of hand.

By now Shearer was Lord Advocate. His appointment in 1962 was regarded as non-political and arose from a shortage of suitable Scottish legal candidates at Westminster.

At the Crown Office he is remembered for the "brilliance" with which he led a murder prosecution and for his insistence on precision.

These qualities, and his formidable bulk and manner made him much feared when he was elevated to the bench in 1964. In his brusque contempt for the sloppiness or the ill-prepared he aroused dislike, but he ensured the business of his courts was conducted with expedition. He expected those appearing before him to stand up to him if he had the guts and the wit to do so.

His charge to the jury, in the case of Cawthorne in 1968 at the High Court in Inverness, became the basis of the law on attempted murder in Scotland when his view was upheld on appeal. A man had discharged a shotgun at a door not knowing whether anyone was behind it and the defence argued that attempted murder implied a deliberate effort to kill. Lord Avonside ruled that it could arise from a criminal

and reckless act even if its consequences were uncertain.

His censorious side, however, got the better of his judgment in 1971 in a case of a man convicted of rape. Lord Avonside wrote to the Church of Scotland, the employers of one of the witnesses, suggesting he should be dismissed.

This was regarded as a serious lapse of judgment, but little credence is given to the rumour, which saw light of day in Lord Stott's *Diaries* when they were published in 1995, that this damaged his career. Lord Enslie was nevertheless appointed Lord President in 1972.

By now Lord Avonside's health was troubling him considerably, and a lung was removed. He also twice broke his leg: these were merely some mishaps in a string of accidents. This, and the fact that he sat for many years in the outer house, meant his judgments, though cogent, were always unlikely to have lasting influence. And when he did come to the inner house, he found himself sitting beside the powerful team of Lords Enslie and Cameron.

He was twice married and is survived by the two children of his first marriage, a daughter and a son, and by his wife Janet, whom he married in 1954.

JOHN LOUDON

John Loudon, chairman of Royal Dutch/Shell, 1952-65, died in Haarlem, The Netherlands, on February 4 aged 90. He was born in The Hague on June 27, 1905.

JOHN LOUDON was a leading representative of the generation of internationally-minded Dutchmen who, after the Second World War, rendered invaluable service to their country. Whereas some were active in the political arena, contributing significantly to the reconstruction of post-war Europe, Loudon's chosen path was business and he combined the skills of the statesman and of the creative, industrialist to transform the Royal Dutch/Shell Group into the multinational oil giant which it is today.

John Hugo Loudon was born into a prominent Dutch family; his grandfather was the Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, while his father had succeeded the legendary Deterding as president of Royal Dutch. Loudon's

parents wanted him to join the Diplomatic Service, but he had already become fascinated by the international oil business and in 1930, having qualified as a lawyer, he joined the Royal Dutch/Shell Group to work in the Lake Maracaibo oilfields in Venezuela in order, as he put it, "to get my hands dirty with oil".

From there, he spent some time with Shell Oil at its Houston headquarters but he returned to Venezuela in 1937, and in 1944 he was promoted to be general manager of Shell's Venezuelan operations. During the war years he facilitated a vast expansion of Venezuela's production and refining capacity as one of the crucial sources of energy for the Allies, and he had frequently to call on his diplomatic skills in order to keep relations with the authorities on an even keel.

In 1947 Loudon joined the Royal Dutch parent company, where he became responsible for Shell's American interests. This was a critical period in the group's

history, as the German occupation of The Netherlands and the wartime disruption of most of its international operations had posed major financial and organisational problems for the group.

After his appointment as director-general (the title was subsequently changed to chairman) in 1952, Loudon set about mounting a complete reorganisation of the group's international structure. This

was based on a major study which the American management consultants McKinsey had carried out at London's behest, the recommendations of which were implemented by him in 1959. The two major achievements of this initiative were to establish an effective and lasting relationship between the Dutch and British parent companies, and to foster a spirit of independence among the operating companies worldwide which served the group well in the sensitive political environment of the oil world in the 1960s and 1970s. Loudon himself was widely praised for the deft way he handled negotiations with Mossadegh during the Iranian oil-crisis in 1951.

By the time of his retirement from an executive role in 1965, Loudon had unmistakably put his stamp on the Royal Dutch/Shell Group as well as on the international oil industry, of which he had become one of the leading figures. Despite his achievements, he was not an overbearing or authoritarian figure; his out-

standing qualities were charm and modesty, and an ability to create trust. This made him an inspirational figure within the group and his advice was sought by his successors long after his retirement.

Loudon followed a number of other interests after his career with Shell. He succeeded Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands as international president of the World Wildlife Fund and after he had, in his turn, passed the presidency on to the Duke of Edinburgh he remained closely involved in its activities, receiving the WWF Member of Honour Award in 1981. He was strongly committed to the WWF's conservation goals. He was a trustee of the Ford Foundation and of the French-based business school INSEAD. He was also for a time a director of Chase Manhattan Bank. He was made a Knight of the Order of The Netherlands, a Grand Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau and, in 1960, was appointed an honorary KBE.

In his later years, Loudon became increasingly attached to his yacht *Hare* which he sailed regularly in the Mediterranean and the Aegean. He was a most generous host and a close friend of the Dutch Royal Family. Loudon was also a devoted family man. On his 90th birthday he entertained for a weekend more than 70 members of his family at a hotel in the South of England.

He married first, in 1930, Baroness Marie van Tuyl van Serooskerken, who died in 1988. They had four sons; the eldest of whom was killed in a motor accident. A month before Loudon died he married the companion of his later years, Charlotte van Sima.

In his later years, Loudon became increasingly attached to his yacht *Hare* which he sailed regularly in the Mediterranean and the Aegean. He was a most generous host and a close friend of the Dutch Royal Family. Loudon was also a devoted family man. On his 90th birthday he entertained for a weekend more than 70 members of his family at a hotel in the South of England.

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JOAN WOLFENDEN

Joan Wolfenden, restaurateur, writer and gardener, died on February 10 aged 75. She was born on December 5, 1920.

JOAN WOLFENDEN opened one of the first country house-style hotels, Peacock Vane in the Isle of Wight, when she returned to Britain after the war. She was a complete novice in the mysteries of hotel management, but necessity turned her into a competent businesswoman as well as chef, gardener, publisher and writer.

Joan Alice Colonna, as she was before marriage, was born in London to a shipping agent of Belgian descent, who concentrated on the coffee trade with East Africa. She went to a convent day school in London and did a typing course before accompanying her father to East Africa as his secretary at the age of 16. When war broke out she joined the FANYs and met Alfred "Wolfe" Wolfenden, a major at the army headquarters in Mombasa. They were married, much against her family's wishes, in Mombasa Cathedral in 1943 when he was 26 and she was 22. After the war they returned to Britain.

When she was first married and began to entertain, Joan did things in a Belgian way, and received a good many compliments on her cooking. This gave her the idea of running a restaurant which served simple but excellent food, properly cooked for gourmets. In 1955 she and her husband bought a rambling Regency house in Bonchurch and transformed it into a restaurant and one of the first country house hotels.

Peacock Vane, or PV as it was known, felt more like a family house than a hotel. The Wolfendens entertained in an atmosphere of relaxed formality, with huge woldhounds, poodles, setters and children everywhere. Drinks covered the lid of the grand piano, from which guests were invited to help themselves and to make a note of what they

drank. Joan Wolfenden's husband was the mildest of men, and relied on his wife to instil order. For instance, when anyone had to be thrown out of the hotel it was always Joan who did it. Her husband would remain in the background throughout any alteration and congratulate her afterwards on her firm handling of the situation.

After her husband's death in 1976, Joan retired to Yaffies, her house overlooking Peacock Vane, leaving her son and daughter-in-law to run the hotel (it closed in the 1980s). Then began a period of remarkable creativity. She wrote and illustrated one or two books a year in the style of Edith Holden's *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. Because London publishers balked at the high cost of producing these, she published them herself, and for a while she owned a bookshop in the village, selling her titles: *Recipes to Relish*, *The Grand Salad* and *Banqueting for One*.

Gardening was her other passion. Yaffies had once belonged to the novelist Henry de Vere Stacpoole, but his grand Italianate gardens were overrun and neglected when Joan bought the house. She spent her last years restoring them to their proper glory.

She leaves a daughter and a son.

Mandeville-street, Clapton, were charged on remand with obtaining charitable contributions from Mr. William Francis, one of the proprietors of the "Mohawk Minstrels". Mr. Francis said he received a letter from a "Mrs. Ellen Wallace" saying that her husband (an old negro comedian) was lying dead at her residence in Southgate-road, and that she was penniless. Witness gave £10s. to his manager to send to the woman, but inquiries were made and Detective-sergeant Drew arrested the prisoners, after finding that the address in the Southgate-road was merely a shop where letters were received...

Detective-sergeant Drew said he found letters upon the prisoners showing that they had got £10s. from Mrs. Sara Lane, of the Britannia Theatre, and 10s. from Mr. Gilbert Satzler. A detective officer from the E division said the female prisoner had already been convicted of similar fraud. Hundreds of letters were then found, showing that she and her husband had been pests to theatrical people all over the country.

Mr. Corse now discharged the female prisoner, and told the male prisoner that he was such men as he who stopped the flow of charitable contributions for really deserving cases. He would be imprisoned and kept at hard labour for three months.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL SUMMER BOATS &c sold.

CHARTERS

FISHING holidays in France and Austria, with departures from several UK airports on Saturday, are available from Crystal: 0181-399 5144. Prices range from £219 a person for a week's bed-and-breakfast accommodation, to £329. Half-board or catered.

WEEKEND climbing courses, including lectures and practical rock-climbing, are being offered at the Youth Hostels Association Llanberis and Edele (Peak District) activity centres (01772 65047) for £85 a person.

SAVINGS of up to £440 a person are available from Karon (01305 742222) on Easter departures to Jamaica, flying on Air Jamaica's new scheduled service from

FOR the first two weeks in April, 'Queens Most' Houses is offering special rates at its 80 UK hotels starting at £43 per person for two nights, or from £64 including dinner. Details: 0645-333 666.

THE 20-room Pembridge Court Hotel, west London, is cutting room prices by 15 per cent to £125.50 per night over Easter. Every guest will be given an Easter chocolate gift, in honour of the hotel's resident ginger cats. Spencer and Churchill. Details: 0171-229 9977.

THE Royal and Ermitage Hotels in Eivian, France, are offering free skiing, including all equipment and tuition, for one day of their three-night packages, which are available until March 17. Prices for two people for three nights start at FFr

FREGATA, a specialist in East European flights, has bargain fares to numerous destinations with reputable airlines. Examples: Sofia £237; Minsk £29; Prague £145; Budapest £135; Riga £246; Moscow £269; Kiev £259; Warsaw £166. Details: 0171-451 7000.

TORONTO return, for £229, is being offered on selected flights from Heathrow on Saturdays until the end of March by Air Travel Advisory Bureau. Details: 0171-636 5000.

BRITISH Midland enters the Leeds-Paris route on March 31. Business tickets start at £314, with leisure fares priced at £119. Details: 0345 554554.

JERSEY European has extended its free ticket offer until the end of March.

4,560 free treatments in the hotels' spas are an alternative for non-smokers. Details: 0800 181 591.

HOTEL Cipriani in Venice is offering a Spring Romance package including two nights in a junior suite, welcome champagne, dinners in the hotel and a local restaurant and a visit to a glass factory. The cost is £545 per person. Details via Leading Hotels of the World: 0800 181 123.

SWIMMING instructor Pierre Grunberg is holding a clinic on April 27 and 28 at the Runnymede Hotel, Egham, Surrey. Private lessons cost £40 or £15 in a group of up to six. Special weekend room rates are £70 per person per night including dinner. Details: 01784 470099.

BUSINESS-CLASS passengers booking selected flights to Northern Ireland or the Channel Islands qualify for a free economy-class ticket. Details: 0345 676776.

BRITISH AIRWAYS Express starts flying Gatwick-Cologne on March 3 with an offer of triple Air Miles for Executive Club members paying the full fare. Details: 0181-897 4000.

AIR Portugal's special £96 excursion fare to Faro ('Algarve') can be combined with a £20 three-day car rental. Book by March 16 for travel up until March 28. Details: 0171-328 0262.

TRAVEL BAG is charging £445 for round-trip flights to Johannesburg with Gulf Air via Bahrain. Details: 01420 88724.

Lisbon & Porto from £137 return with 2 nights free accommodation in 3 star hotel.

Portuguese
0171 630 9223

All flights are on scheduled services. Bookings must be made by 16th March. Departures up to 26th March 1996.

*Price per person. 2 adults must travel together, twin occupancy. 3 star hotel B&B. Taxes excluded.

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Why Japan is no longer such a safe bet



BOOKS 40, 41

Imogen Stubbs on the lighter side of Sylvia Plath

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Sir Stanley recalls memories of better times at Yeovil

GEOFF BROWN REVIEWS THE LATEST FILMS Arts 37-39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996



Orange, the third largest mobile phone network, said yesterday that its planned flotation will value the company between £2.2 billion and £2.65 billion, a range that is about 15 per cent below brokers' estimates. (writes

Eric Reguly) Hans Snook, Orange managing director, left, and Graham Howe, financial director, denied that the valuation was reduced in response to more competitive rival digital tariffs. The company expects 325

million shares to be offered at a price somewhere between 175p to 205p, raising between £50 million and £62.5 million. The global offer, led by Kleinwort Benson and Goldman Sachs, is scheduled to close on March

26, with trading starting the next day. Snook is to receive share options equal to two times his salary of £400,000 in the first year, falling to one times salary in the second and third years. Pennington, page 27

Spottiswoode condemns Gas service as 'atrocious'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THIS EXPECTED clash between British Gas and the industry watchdog over pricing controls moved a step closer yesterday as Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, delivered a series of tough messages to the beleaguered company.

Ms Spottiswoode, who said that complaints to Ofgas had risen by 46 per cent last year and that the company's service in some areas was "truly atrocious", confirmed last week's pessimistic view by Richard Giordano, chairman of British Gas, that the two parties were so far apart on the pricing formula for TransCo that a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was very likely. She said: "Both we and British Gas will be surprised if it doesn't go to the MMC."

Ms Spottiswoode, who signalled at yesterday's presentation of Ofgas's annual report that she had some sympathy for the take-or-pay contract problems of British Gas, said the company would be forced by competition to improve its service and reduce its prices.

Otherwise, she said, customers would follow the example of those in the South West, who are abandoning British Gas in substantial numbers. Labour seized on her warning, saying that increased efficiency in the privatised utilities usually led to a poorer service. Ian McCartney, the party's Employment spokesman, said: "It is typical of the behaviour of privatised utilities that increasing efficiency has led to two more directors helping themselves to pay rises in the boardroom, and 22,000 less staff actually helping customers."

But Ms Spottiswoode conceded that in the last two months of 1995 there had been a decline in the rate of complaints, which had largely revolved around billing, and that the company's efforts, orchestrated by Roy Gardner, its finance director, had been impressive.

The gas regulator also gave a warning that British Gas Energy, the soon-to-be segregated company that will supply gas

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES	
FTSE 100	3738.2 (+2.23)
Yield	3.83%
FTSE All share	1843.44 (+0.82)
Yield	19.61% (-0.43)
New York:	
Dow Jones	5578.55 (+30.4)*
S&P Composite	652.54 (+5.30)*

BOND MARKET	
London:	
Long Bonds	6.14% (5.21)
Yield	6.40% (6.47%)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE	
London:	
3-month Interbank	5.54% (5.54%)
Little long gilt future (Mar)	107.14 (107.14)

STOCK MARKET INDEXES	
New York:	
S	1,534.07 (1,541.0)
London:	
DM	1,533.5 (1,533.5)
FT	7,594.0 (7,600.0)
SFT	1,532.5 (1,520.7)
E Index	108.3 (108.3)

COMMODITIES	
London:	
DM	1,465.4 (1,452.2)
FT	5,018.5 (4,986.9)
SFT	1,154.8 (1,162.0)
Yen	104.45 (104.32)
S Index	95.1 (94.2)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE	
London:	
DM	1,465.4 (1,452.2)
FT	5,018.5 (4,986.9)
SFT	1,154.8 (1,162.0)
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USD ST	
London:	
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FT	5,018.5 (4,986.9)
SFT	1,154.8 (1,162.0)
Yen	104.45 (104.32)
S Index	95.1 (94.2)

Tokyo close Yen 104.20

Brent 15-day (May) \$17.00 (\$17.30)

London close \$397.75 (\$398.05)

* denotes midday trading price

RJB hits coalface problems at superpit

By GEORGE SIVELL

RJB, the coal mining company which paid £815 million for the English part of British Coal, has struck geological problems at Astford, the British Coal superpit which soaked up £400 million of public money before being sold.

Yesterday Richard Budge, the RJB chief executive and founder, wrote off the £78 million value of Astford in his balance sheet and agreed a new business plan for the pit with unions and workers. RJB is to try mining two short production coalfaces of 70 metres wide instead of the long coalface of 150 metres being attempted at the moment. This will give RJB time to reassess the medium and long-term viability of the pit over the next six to nine months. The present plan avoids redundancies.

Astford was built after a planning application by British Coal for three separate pits in Leicestershire was rejected but lies on the very edge of the coal deposits, making mining much more difficult.

In a trading statement to the Stock Exchange, RJB said that increased production elsewhere in the group had made up for Astford's second-half losses of £16.3 million and that profits for 1995 would still be in line with market forecasts.

The announcement left RJB shares down 14p at 527p.

RJB also revealed that its £36.8 million debt pile raised in December 1994 to acquire the English part of British Coal had fallen to £55 million at December 31, 1995, and that it has paid £12 million of the deferred £117 million due to the Government.

MPs to demand OFT inquiry into Exchange

By ROBERT MILLER

"order matching" system of share trading. Mr Lawrence, who gave evidence for more than two hours, specifically named BEW, the securities arm of Barclays Bank, Smith New Court, now absorbed by Merrill Lynch, and SBC Warburg, as the main opponents of his reforms. When pushed by Diane Abbott, Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Mr Lawrence indicated that BEW and Merrill Smith New Court were the most vocal in their opposition.

Clive Betts, another Labour committee member, asked Mr Lawrence if he would have kept his post if John Kemp-Welch, the chairman of the Stock Exchange and a former senior member of Cazenove, had stood by him. "I am

certain," replied Mr Lawrence. Committee sources indicated last night that, in the light of this reply, Mr Kemp-Welch is likely to be invited to appear before MPs again.

In his evidence to the Treasury committee headed by Sir Tom Arnold, Mr Lawrence said that as far as he was concerned "the reform programme I led had the support of the chairman of the Exchange and of the Board". As late as November 1995, the chairman assured me of his support for the trading reforms and the board, despite lobbying, fully supported the proposals. Mr Lawrence confirmed: "I received no warning at any time that I did not enjoy their support although we were all aware of the opposition of certain market-makers. My

last discussion with the chairman was on December 22. On January 4, just before a board meeting, Mr Lawrence said the chairman and Ian Salter, deputy chairman and a director of SCST (Investment Advisers), the French investment bank, "advised me that I had lost the board's confidence and the purpose of the meeting was to secure my removal from office".

Last night the Stock Exchange denied the suggestion that Mr Lawrence's high profile sacking which has privately caused grave concern to MPs on all sides of the Treasury committee, was the result of a cartel of self-interested members.

A spokeswoman said: "It was a loss of confidence built up over a period of time by an accumulation of issues and it was a decision of the board which represents a wide range of interests in the market."

SBC Warburg said: "We are not opposed to reform and this was not about one person or the personality. Our concern was that we felt the process was being pushed through too fast without proper analysis and with insufficient consultation with the members. It is typical of the behaviour of privatised utilities that increasing efficiency has led to two more directors helping themselves to pay rises in the boardroom, and 22,000 less staff actually helping customers."

Mr Lawrence, however, was firm in his view yesterday that if self-interest groups were allowed to impose their will on the rest of the market then the future for the Stock Exchange was bleak.

Yarrow wins frigate contract

By ROSE TRUMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WORK will begin today on the first of three Type 23 frigates ordered by the Ministry of Defence from the General Electric Company's Yarrow shipyard in a £100 million package yesterday.

The order will save the jobs of 200 workers among the 650 put on notice of redundancy last month. But Vosper, the Southampton, Thornycroft, the Southport warship-builder undercut by GEC in the bidding contest, said it would have shed 450 workers. The order comes after a cut-throat competition between Britain's two remaining warship builders to assemble the last ships in the current generation of anti-submarine frigates.

GEC Marine, which also

owns the VSEL yard at Barrow, was determined to keep Vosper from making a return to the construction of larger ships.

With two frigates for Malaysia nearing completion, the yard needed the Royal Navy orders to maintain its workflow, despite a recent order for three offshore patrol vessels for Brunel.

Murray Easton, Yarrow's managing director, said: "It was a very tough competition based on very hard-fought commercial lines and what it does is establish Yarrow Shipbuilders in a pre-eminent position both within the UK and in the very high priority of world-class shipbuilders."

He added that Vosper remained strong with a £400-million order book. Analysts said the company was likely to face a £15-million redundancy charge.

James Arbutnott, the De-



Easton: hard-fought contest

Yorkshire Water counts the cost of supply hitches

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

YORKSHIRE WATER yesterday disclosed the cost of its supply problems of last year, when the company, which had to mount huge tanker operations, made a provision of £47 million.

With company chiefs due soon before the inquiry into the drought shortages, Yorkshire said that £27 million had been spent on tankering, which, at its height, had 700 tankers a day coming from the Tees to water treatment centres in Yorkshire. The rest of the money was spent on emergency pumping, standpipes and advertising to encourage the region's 1.7

million households to use water sparingly.

Tanker ended on January 13, but hosepipe bans remain and prohibition of unnecessary use of water — such as for car cleaning — operates in many parts of the region.

Last year, Yorkshire Water said that it was putting an extra £100 million into pipeline investments as consumers and MPs criticised its leakage rate, which has been measured at 33 per cent.

The company says that no more tankering will be necessary this year even if rainfall is as little as last year.

Yesterday, it said that emergency pumping facilities that took water from rivers were being dismantled as a measure of confidence that they will not be needed this year.

Reservoir levels in Yorkshire are running at about 50 per cent, it said.

Ofwat said that customers would not be affected by the £47 million charge because the company must adhere to Ofwat price controls.

Two weeks ago, Yorkshire caused an outcry when it announced a price rise of 5.6 per cent — the maximum allowable under Ofwat regulations.

Yesterday, it said that emergency pumping facilities that took water from rivers were being dismantled as a measure of confidence that they will not be needed this year.

Reservoir levels in Yorkshire are running at about 50 per cent, it said.

Pennington, page

Another move on pension splitting

By ANNE ASHWORTH

NEW moves will be made today to allow pensions to be split when couples divorce, in spite of Government objections to reform, based on an estimated £200 million cost of the measure.

Baroness Hollis of Heigham, Labour social security spokesman in the Lords, will this afternoon table an amendment to the Family Law Bill requiring that pensions be divided upon divorce. Lady Hollis, the prime mover in the campaign for a fairer deal for wives who divorce in middle life, expects all-party support for the proposal, even from peers opposed to the rest of the Bill, which introduces divorce after a year.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, made clear his opposition to pension-splitting last week. Matrimonial lawyers, the pensions industry and the Confederation of British Industry consider splitting fairer and simpler than division at retirement, as laid out in the Pensions Act 1995.

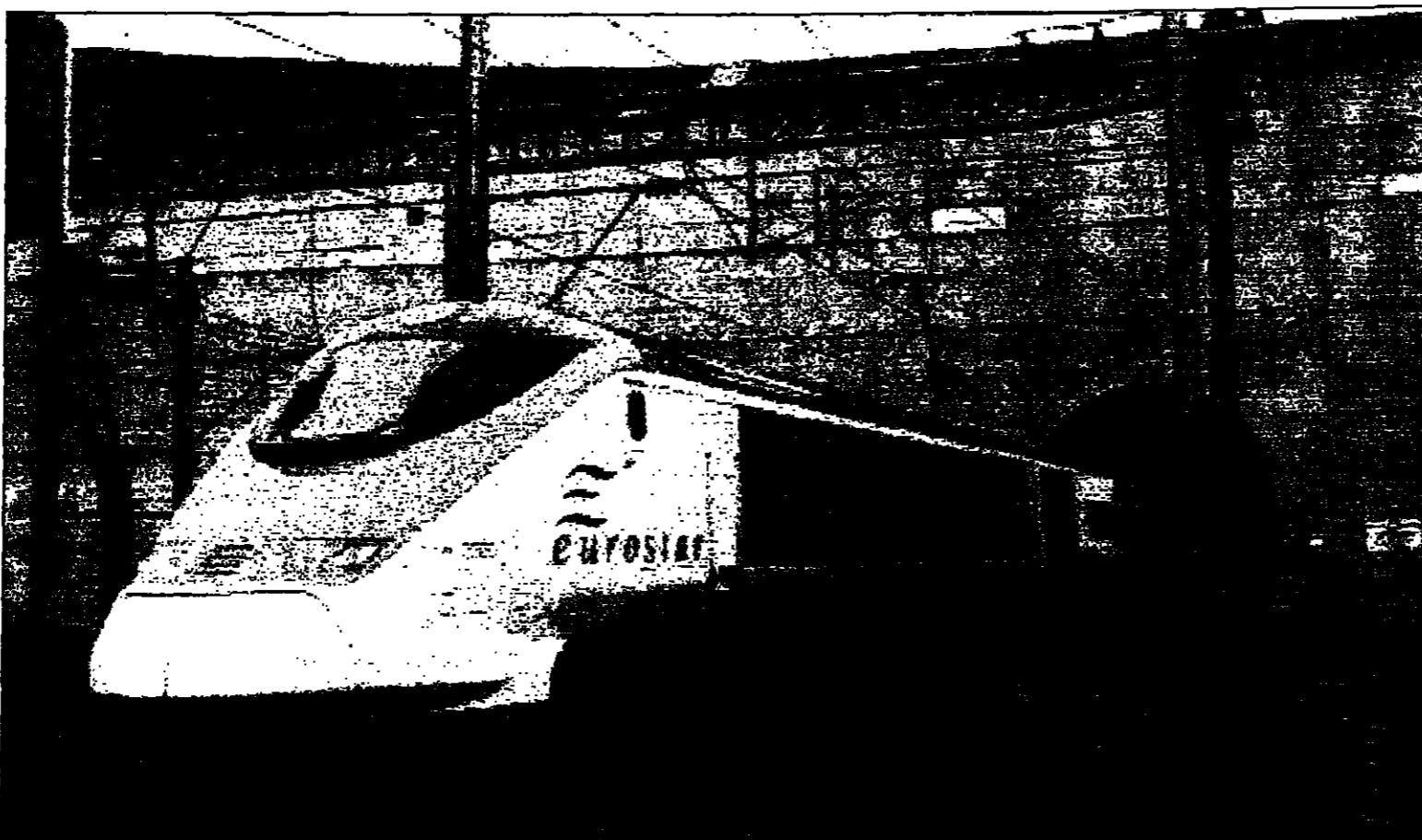
This week, the Department of Social Security produced figures showing that pension-splitting would cost £600 million, if all couples, married, divorced or separated, opted to divide their pensions. Splitting for divorced couples only would cost £200 million by the 2037.

Yesterday, Lady Hollis said: "The suggestion that there would be irresistible political pressure to allow all couples to split their pensions ignores all the other advantages that married couples enjoy over those who have divorced, the major financial advantage being the lower cost of running one household."

She said: "The Government continues to accept that, up to 2020, tax costs and benefit and Legal Aid savings would cancel each other out. Any figures beyond 2020 are so dependent on what happens to the tax, benefit and pensions systems as to be meaningless."

Lord Mackay has called for further research and cited technical difficulties, one of which centres on public sector unfunded schemes for civil servants, in which there are no easily-divided assets.

Opponents of pension-splitting say that it leaves divorced couples in a more tax-advantageous position than married couples.



London & Continental's first priority will be to turn round the Eurostar service, which is costing the taxpayer £200 million a year

Virgin consortium wins £3bn Tunnel rail link contract

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SIR GEORGE YOUNG will today announce in the Commons that London & Continental Railways, a consortium including Virgin Group and National Express, has been awarded the £3 billion contract to build the Channel Tunnel rail link.

The decision, which is two months behind schedule, also gives London & Continental responsibility for running Eurostar on the existing 70mph Railtrack line, along the route of the link. St Pancras station, the main London terminal for the link, and Water-

loo International. The Government is expected to inject up to £1 billion of taxpayers' money into the project.

London & Continental has seen off competition from three rival bidders for the contract and appears to have won mainly because of the air and bus transport experience of Virgin and National Express. The other shareholders are Ove Arup, Bechtel, Sir William Halcrow and SG Warburg.

London & Continental's first priority will be to turn round the Eurostar service, which is costing the taxpayer £200 million a year because it has

failed to attract forecast numbers of passengers.

Three million passengers used the service last year, its first full year of operation, compared with the six million forecast as recently as 1994.

European Passenger Services, the Government-owned company that operates Eurostar in partnership with the French and Belgian national railways, has been criticised for poor marketing of the service and inadequate ticket availability.

It has aimed its service at the business market and has failed to attract the mass market business it needs to fill the

trains, which each have as many seats as two jumbo jets.

Although the Paris service has picked up, the Brussels service has been running at about one third capacity.

There is also still poor understanding of the difference between Eurostar, the capital-to-capital passenger service, and Eurotunnel, which operates Le Shuttle drive-on car trains between Folkestone and Calais.

London & Continental is

expected to begin work on the 68-mile

Japanese lender has £2bn debts

FROM PETER HODSON
IN TOKYO

EQUION, one of Japan's largest consumer credit companies, has filed for voluntary liquidation with estimated debts of Y100 billion (£2 billion), heightening fears of further failures in the troubled financial sector.

Equion was set up in 1959 as an independent consumer loan company. During the "bubble economy" of the late 1980s, it aggressively increased its lending to property developers and golf course construction firms. When the bubble burst, the company was plunged into difficulties. About 90 per cent of its loans cannot be recovered. In the year to March 31, 1995, Equion suffered losses of Y16.8 billion. Last July, its shares were withdrawn from Tokyo's over-the-counter market.

Equion's liquidation comes after its main lenders withdrew support. Among the lending institutions are Sumitomo Trust, with an exposure of Y25.4 billion, Daichi Kangyo Bank (Y23.5 billion), Yasuda Trust (Y17.4 billion) and Mitsui Trust (Y15.9 billion). Hokkaido Takushoku Bank, with exposure of Y2.5 billion, is already in a perilous position with numerous other bad loans outstanding.

Equion's failure has led to fear of a chain reaction among credit firms. By some estimates, half of the Japanese non-banks' lending is non-performing.

Hanson sells part of Cavenham for \$500m

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON kept its £1.5 billion disposals plan on track yesterday with the sale of part of Cavenham, its timber subsidiary, for \$300 million.

Hanson sold it had sold about 650,000 acres of timber in Louisiana and Mississippi and Cavenham's four owned and operated sawmills to Weyerhaeuser, the US forest products company. In total, Cavenham owns about 1.75 million acres of timber throughout the US. Hanson said the disposal of the rest of the timber company was progressing well.

William Landuyt, Hanson Industries chief executive, said: "This puts us ahead of schedule and negotiations are continuing for the sale of the

balance of the southern assets and Cavenham's northwest timberland." In 1995 profits at Cavenham dropped 19 per cent to \$95 million and the company was earmarked for

sale as a non-core business at the end of last year.

Hanson is keen to make a prompt disposal of Cavenham to help to reduce the company's gearing, which stands at about 130 per cent after the £2.5 billion purchase last year of Eastern Group, the electricity company. The group, led by Lord Hanson, is aiming to raise a further £500 million by a public sell-off of part of its stake in suburban Prudential of the US.

Hanson has been under pressure to reduce its debt after announcing that it would split into four separate companies. The demerger plans have provoked fears over the prospective debt positions of the new companies. Hanson's shares closed unchanged at 186p last night.

Lord Hanson: on track

ABB plans UK expansion

FROM PHILIP PANGALOS IN WARSAW

ABB Asea Brown Boveri, the Swiss-Swedish power generation and electrical engineering company, plans further expansion in the UK, both organically and through acquisition, after productivity improvements and cost reductions helped the group to a 46 per cent advance in full-year profits.

A strong demand for industrial products, cost reductions and productivity improve-

ments helped ABB buck harsh trading conditions in many of its markets with the huge jump in pre-tax profits to \$2.11 billion in the year to December 31, up turnover ahead 14 per cent to \$3.37 billion.

Percy Barnevick, ABB chairman and chief executive, said the results were boosted by continued expansion in the fast-growing Asian markets and a healthy improvement in

America. Mr Barnevick, who is optimistic on prospects, said: "The UK had another strong year of improvement in profit." Eric Dreyer, chief executive of ABB UK, which employs about 13,200 people, anticipates further expansion in Britain through acquisition and organic growth.

ABB ended 1995 with net cash of \$2 billion, up \$300 million on the previous year.

Mr Barnevick said: "We are

optimistic about the future

of the UK market.

The move, supported by

Labour and the Liberal Democ-

rats, is a clear attempt to

build upon agreements on

minimum standards —

reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing

readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's out-

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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996

PPI 'knew about £400,000 trap'

Regulator challenges

Skills show mind

Huge share

UK's biggest

New building

Huge charge pushes BICC to £67m loss

By ALASTAIR MURRAY

BICC, the cables and construction group, announced full-year losses of £67 million yesterday after confirming it was taking exceptional charges totalling £176 million.

The exceptional items include an £82 million charge for restructuring in the cable division and a £78 million loss on the sale of Clarke Homes, its unprofitable housebuilding division, which was sold to Wembury Homes for £61 million.

Operating profits fell by 16 per cent to £150 million while the dividend was cut from 14.6p to 12.5p. BICC had already announced most of the bad news to the market and the share price rose 7p to 297p after the company said it expected improved results from the cable division this year.

BICC shed about 1,000 jobs from its cabling division last year but warned that with demand in Germany still weak the company would consider making further cuts. The company blamed a fall in demand for cable systems after privatisation and deregulation in the electricity sector, as well as a rise in raw material prices, for its difficulties. The cable divi-

sions made an operating profit of £129 million, a fall of 4 per cent on last year.

Profits in Balfour Beatty, the construction division, fell 58 per cent to £18 million in the weak UK construction market. BICC also said a net charge of £5 million after the delay in the completion of the Heathrow Express project caused by a tunnel collapse.

The property division made sales of £47 million last year, after BICC's earlier announcement that it was looking to dispose of £100 million of assets. The company also took a £10 million charge to cover losses caused by the weak market and the company's desire to accelerate disposals.

BICC expects to learn today whether it has won the £2.3 billion contract to build the Channel Tunnel rail link. The company bid as part of a consortium against another led by the Virgin group. BICC said that even if it failed to win, it expected to gain some cabling and electrification work. The dividend will be payable on July 1.

Tempus, page 28

Capital Centres surprises

DONALD GORDON, chairman of Capital Shopping Centres that operates several regional centres, including Lakeside in Thurrock, Essex, and the MetroCentre at Gateshead, yesterday delivered an upbeat statement on prospects as he unveiled markedly better than expected results for the year to December 31 (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Pre-tax profits rose to £48.4 million, compared with £28.1 million in the eight-month period from flotation to the end of 1994. Net property income rose to £51.3 million (£30.6 million). Mr Gordon said year-on-year sales growth had continued into 1996. "It has been an encouraging start to the year."

The final dividend, due May 8, is down from 5.25p to 4p, making a total of 7.5p. Earnings per share rose from 5.25p to 7.5p.

Losses on the decline at Nynex

NYNEX CableComms, the second-largest cable company, says it is close to breaking even as it gains TV and telephone subscribers (Eric Requin writes).

Nicholas Meiring Smith, chief financial officer, yesterday said he is "hopeful" that the company will achieve positive operating cash flow in the current financial year. Of the dozen or so largest cable operators, only videotron and General Cable have positive cash flow.

The forecast came as Nynex, 67 per cent owned by Nynex Corp of New York, a regional phone company, reported a pre-tax loss of £90.26 million in the year to December 31, down 5 per cent from the previous year's loss on turnover that more than doubled to £85 million. The loss per share was 7.8p against a loss of 7.1p.

Standard Chartered in dispute with US bank

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered Bank is embroiled in a contractual wrangle with First Interstate in America after the West Coast bank agreed to a \$1.5 billion takeover by Wells Fargo.

Standard Chartered yesterday impressed the City with pre-tax profits for 1995 up 30 per cent to £601 million, at the top end of forecasts. The dividend is up 38 per cent to 11p, with the final payment of 7.5p due on May 31.

There is a financial penalty if the American bank walks away. However, its new parent has a similar agreement with HSBC. Standard

Chartered's biggest rival in the Far East.

Patrick Gilian, chairman of Standard Chartered, said: "We would much rather have a form of continuing relationship with Wells Fargo, than a contractual argument."

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Tempus, page 28

PR disasters in water and gas The future is flotation Research in the champagne style

We all need to be loved

□ THE various woes of British Gas and Yorkshire Water are quite different, but they are, in both cases, self-inflicted. Both companies, along with a third, South West Water, have managed to provide an object lesson in how to destroy a company's reputation as a public utility.

From Yorkshire Water's distinguished bleedings, one might suspect that global warming or some awful tragedy in the upper atmosphere had transformed the climate of Death Valley, or Abu Dhabi, to the Yorkshire Dales. True, the company has yet to poison large numbers of customers, a trick that South West has managed not once but twice, once in public hands and once in private, and what little water there is in Yorkshire has not been tipped the sea.

Yorkshire Water has, however, fallen in public esteem at least as far as South West, and arguably farther. This is a difficult trick in public relations terms, because its performance is probably not that far behind the rest of the water companies. Yorkshire loses, depending on what measure you use, 33 or 26 per cent of its supplies between the reservoir and the tap, not significantly worse than others in the industry.

Last summer it was hampered by a local geographical quirk that meant that the traditionally

wettest areas, where reservoirs had not previously been deemed necessary, were the driest. Supplies could not be switched across the county because of the poor state of the pipes. An apparently viable plan to bring water in from the Kielder Dam, in neighbouring Northumbrian territory, came to nothing.

But however hard the company spin doctors insist, quite rightly, that not a pipe has run dry in Yorkshire, the public perception is quite the opposite. Such a perception is as difficult to turn round as a supertanker — just ask British Gas. The number of householders left shivering in the cold this winter was fairly small — but public perception again, suggests the opposite.

Clare Spotswood, the regulator, has now stated the blindingly obvious, a fact appreciated even within British Gas itself. Bad service means lost customers, both for gas supply and for maintenance and servicing.

British Gas's true woes, of course, lie with the North Sea take-or-pay contracts, which have nothing to do with its relationship with the customers.

However, because of this low public esteem, it has proved impossible for the Government to bail the company out.

Here is the clearest parallel with Yorkshire Water. Demerger was forced on British Gas, ideally leaving all liabilities with one half of the company, because otherwise the shareholders would have had to suffer through lower dividends. Ian Bryant, the water regulator, has also made clear that Yorkshire shareholders should foot the bill, both for spending on pipeline repairs and on compensation payments. There are times when popularity has its benefits.

Orange alert for phone price war

□ ORANGE came out of nowhere less than two years ago to become, with about 400,000 subscribers at the last count, the country's third-largest mobile phone network. That network is taking on digital customers at a faster rate than Vodafone and Cellnet, its older and larger rivals, and, unlike them, has

managed to establish a strong brand image with its "the future is bright, the future is Orange" catchphrase. Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace are so pleased with Orange's prospects that next month's flotation has become the most hyped offering of the year. Punters, they believe, are lined up around the world.

Prospective investors might want to consider the evolving state of the industry before taking a bite. Vodafone and Cellnet are now putting out the message that the great mobile phone party is over. They have been surprisingly tolerant of Orange's youthful abandon, but now that the youngster has grown up a bit, they feel the urge to impose some discipline. On April 1, only five days after

April 1, only five days after Orange's shares are scheduled to start trading on the Nasdaq market and on the London Stock Exchange, Vodafone's lower digital tariffs come into effect.

Vodafone claims that the new prices are only 5 per cent higher than Orange's and that the price differential is worth it because its coverage is more extensive. In the same month, the company will launch a £20 million advertising blitz in an effort to stem the flow of customers to Orange, Cellnet, which more or less copies Vodafone's every move, is bound to follow suit.

We are seeing the start of a marketing and price war that was not supposed to arrive for another few years, given the strong growth still available. Orange has not changed its tariffs since the service was launched in April 1994, but, as competitors drop prices, it may have to follow suit. If so, break-even point and the first dividends are pushed further out.

A tacit admission that Orange is nervous about the competition was the setting of the flotation value at between £2.2 billion and

E2.45 billion, some 15 per cent less than brokers' estimated valuations. Orange, it appears, is quietly preparing for war.

Nice work if you can get it

□ YOU are a senior executive in a large money-management firm with responsibility for increasing performance, revenue and profitability," a letter to the editor of this column opens.

Wrong, but never mind. Enclosed is an invitation, full price £1,300 but £1,200 to you, it says, to the Hotel Martinez in Cannes this June for two days of um, research into fund management.

It sounds like hell. High on the list of attractions are "Champagne round-tables to increase business interaction", a gala dinner and plenty of cocktail parties. The full-day workshops to really focus on the key issues are, quite rightly, described as "optional". Why waste time on the key issues, when you could be at a cocktail party?

It gets worse. The delegate is offered a "multi-stream" à la

carte format" that allows you to "create your own ideal conference agenda". Take a note, Miss Smith: top of the agenda is, oh, a cocktail party or two, then we'll have a couple of those Champagne things, and let's not forget the gala dinner.

Who on earth goes to these extraordinary junks? More than 300 senior fund management executives at the last one, in Montreux, a fine place to ratchet up the expense account in a country where even the snow has to be paid for by the foot.

So if you work in fund management and the boss mysteriously disappears on June 19, you know where to find him.

Pit provision

□ ASFORDBY, a small town between Leicester and Melton Mowbray, always seemed a draft place to build a super-pit, being situated on the very edge of what may yet turn out to be a halfway decent coalfield. British Coal sank the best part of £400 million into it. New King Coal, aka Richard Budge, now has his doubts, and has written its value down to zero. If he does succeed at Asfordby, yesterday's £78 million provision will start feeding back into profit. That would be another master stroke from the man they all said paid too much for British Coal.

STILL DOING THIS WITH YOUR COMPANY'S MONEY?



THEN WE'LL GIVE YOU A GRANT TO STOP IT.

How much money is your company letting out through the roof, sending up in smoke or pouring down the drain? After all, businesses exist to make money, not dispose of it.

So how much could you save — or even make — with a little planning?

SCEEMAS is a grant scheme designed to help small manufacturing companies register under EMAS — the EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme — and set up an effective environmental management system.

A system to minimise what you throw away and, as a result, increase your margins.

SCEEMAS — The Small Company Environmental and Energy Management Assistance Scheme — provides a grant of between 40% and 50% of the cost of expert guidance towards registration.

And to the public and your customers, EMAS registration is written proof of an environmentally responsible business.

If your company employs fewer than 250 people and has a turnover of less than £16 million each year, fill in the coupon and find out how SCEEMAS can help.

Like your money, such an opportunity shouldn't be wasted.

Please return the coupon to: The SCEEMAS Office, NIFES House, Sinderland Road, Broadheath, Altringham, Cheshire WA14 5HQ. Or telephone 0345 023423. Or fax 0161 926 8718.

Name _____

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TNS

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Trafalgar, Lasmo and Ladbroke the targets

SPOTTING potential bid targets is easy. It is getting the timing right that is the difficult part. Yesterday the market was bracing itself for news of another big bid. The bid targets are all familiar names, having gone through the takeover mill time and time again. The speculators will be hoping that this time they have the timing correct. "It feels like something is going on out there" was the comment of one leading market-maker last night.

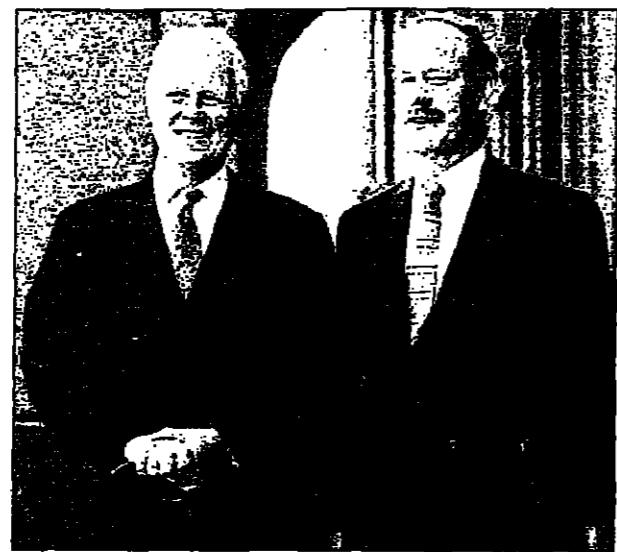
This latest flurry of speculative activity follows hard on the heels of Kvaerner's proposed bid for Trafalgar House, down 15p at 45p. The Norwegian industrial conglomerate is expected to announce terms of a bid at any time, valuing the debt-laden Trafalgar at more than £800 million. Much will depend on the reaction of Hongkong Land, Trafalgar's 26 per cent shareholder, to the terms, expected to be pitched at about the 55p level.

Top of the corporate hit-list yesterday was Ladbroke. Dealers may be about to receive that long-awaited bid from Bass. The shares rose 3p to 184p on turnover of almost five million shares amid claims that next Thursday's figures may provide the springboard for such a move. The Hilton hotel chain in the US has also been tipped as a possible predator. Ladbroke already owns the Hilton hotels outside of the US. Bass responded to news of management changes with a rise of 12p to 754p.

Lasmo, the oil exploration group, where Shell is expected to make an offer, is reporting today. The shares stood out with a jump of 7p to 183p as more than seven million changed hands. Shell was 64p better at 849p.

This latest bout of takeover fever cheered investors and enabled the rest of the equity market to extend Tuesday's gains. A positive start to trading on Wall Street enabled the FT-SE 100 index to close at its best of the day with a rise of 3,738 points on turnover of almost 800 million shares.

As expected, Standard Chartered, the international banking group, weighed in with a useful increase in full-year figures. Whispers late on Tuesday suggested the group would see pre-tax profits come in at the top end of estimates. The final figure of £621 million.



Alan Jones and Ronald Henderson of BICC, down 5p

was up from £510 million last time, with earnings 44 per cent ahead. Much of the growth came from the group's operations in the Far East.

Patrick Gillan, chairman, was quick to quash recent takeover speculation. He said there had been no formal talks and said Standard had an excellent future as an independent bank. He also dismissed

the day at 702p. Meanwhile, Abbey National closed unchanged at 583p, in spite of assuring the City that its proposed £1.35 billion acquisition of National & Provincial Building Society will be earnings-enhancing in the first full year. It has forecast profits of not less than £228 million for the six months to June.

The plunge into the red at

British Steel has told brokers visiting its Rotherham operation that it is keeping an open mind about a possible share buyback. It is sitting on surplus cash of at least £400 million and still has a further 14 months to initiate such a move. The shares rose 6p to 186p, with more than 25 million changing hands.

claims of a share buyback scheme. The shares finished the day 37p better at 636p, with more than seven million traded. Barclays rose 10p to 781p. There was a large buyer of National Westminster Bank doing the rounds, paying 705p for 5.2 million shares when the ruling market price stood at 69p. NatWest clawed back some of Tuesday's fall, closing 15p up on

BICC came as no surprise to the City, which marked the shares 5p higher at 205p. The group saw pre-tax losses of £67 million against a profit last time of £13 million. The group charged £127 million to its accounts for the sale and termination of operations. Operating profit, however, fell from £178 million to £101 million. The group, headed by Alan Jones, chief executive,

VOSPER THORNYCROFT: SHARES SINK ON LOSS OF FRIGATE CONTRACT

Source: DATASTREAM
FT-SE all-share price index (rebased)

Share price (p)

850

800

750

700

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Long Gilt closed £1132 better at 10791, with 84,000 contracts completed.

In the cash market prices

closed off the bottom, helped by a late rally among international bond markets. There was a further steepening of the yield curve, with the shorter end of the market enjoying the best gains. Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was just 1.48 times covered and there is concern that the market may have trouble absorbing the stock.

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THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYArt deco at
Lloyds TSB

SIR Nicholas Goodison, deputy chairman at Lloyds TSB, has been casting a critical eye over Lloyds' art deco offices in Lombard Street, where executive status is measured by the distance of the office from the garish yellow limekum on level four.

"Where most people feel quite queasy on first sight of the yellow flooring which is under a preservation order, Sir Nicholas is rather fond of it. It's not the limekum, it's the subtle warm fluorescent lighting and the magnolia walls," he says. "We really must look into the intentions of the original architect."

Hand of Tiny

TINY ROWLAND yesterday demonstrated that he doesn't always have to use a sharp tongue against his corporate enemies. His right arm is almost as powerful.

At Lloyds' annual meeting yesterday, where Tiny's once favoured corporate "son" Dieter Bock and Lorraine director Jonathan Plate-Mills were up for re-election, Tiny raised his arm to vote against both of them. He didn't win the day against a sea of "yes" votes, but the broad smile on his face was still evident well after the meeting ended.

Gin sling

ANN GLOAG, owner of Beaumont Castle and a founder of the Stagecoach empire, has had her name confused with a new brand of gin. Produced by Matthew Glaes & Son, Gloag's Gin is by chance distilled in the same of former Stagecoach offices in Perth, but the family denies it is theirs. Ann was married to a distant cousin of Matthew Glaes, but she plays no part in the bottling of juniper berries.

Gloag juniper muddle

The new Taffia

A NEW Internet venture to put Welsh businesses in contact — in stay in a hotel run by a Welsh person or eat at a Welsh-run restaurant — is called Taffia, the collective noun otherwise used to describe David Prosser of Legal & General, Wynford Evans of the Bank of Wales, and Hugh Jenkins of Hamroes Trust, eminent money men who were the original Taffia. Jenkins said: "It's more a network than an Italian family." Welsh, by root Welsh by nature.

LLOYD'S BANK Business Club is holding an important meeting in Reading next week, where a Mr Lessow will lecture on "Bad Debt Collection". It will not be a video conference from the Far East — Richard Lessow of solicitors Rowberry Morris & Co will be there in person.

Green fingers

BRIAN QUINN, the Bank of England executive director now partying his way to retirement, has not lost his Scottish campaness in the skirts of the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street. He is too well aware that some of those keenest to obtain his services might be the least appropriate. He will guard his City credit rating jealously and will enjoy his compulsory three months' gardening leave without rushing into anything.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Why Tokyo has become a riskier bet than New York

How changing
conditions
have totally
transformed
the Japanese
stock market

Two months ago I said in my regular column of new year predictions that the biggest financial surprise of 1996 would be the continuing strength of the US stock market, particularly in comparison with the miserable performance I expected from Japan. This stance put me directly at odds with most professional financial analysts.

Yesterday, Tokyo's Nikkei index fell below the 20,000 mark for the first time this year, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average continued to encounter resistance some 10 per cent above its level of December 29. It seemed an appropriate time to take stock.

The situation on Wall Street, which Anthony Harris and I discussed on February 13 and 14, when Wall Street first ran into resistance at about 3,600 on the Dow, has attracted a good deal of attention — mostly from the Cassandra who have been predicting a 1987-style crash ever since the market started rising about 18 months ago.

For the moment, events seem to be bearing out the less dramatic view expressed here on February 12, that US equities have probably now gone high enough to become a "sell" for short-term traders and very cautious savers, but that more daring long-term investors who feel they can see through a moderate correction — or a longish period of often nonstop trading should hang on for more gains in the second half of the year.

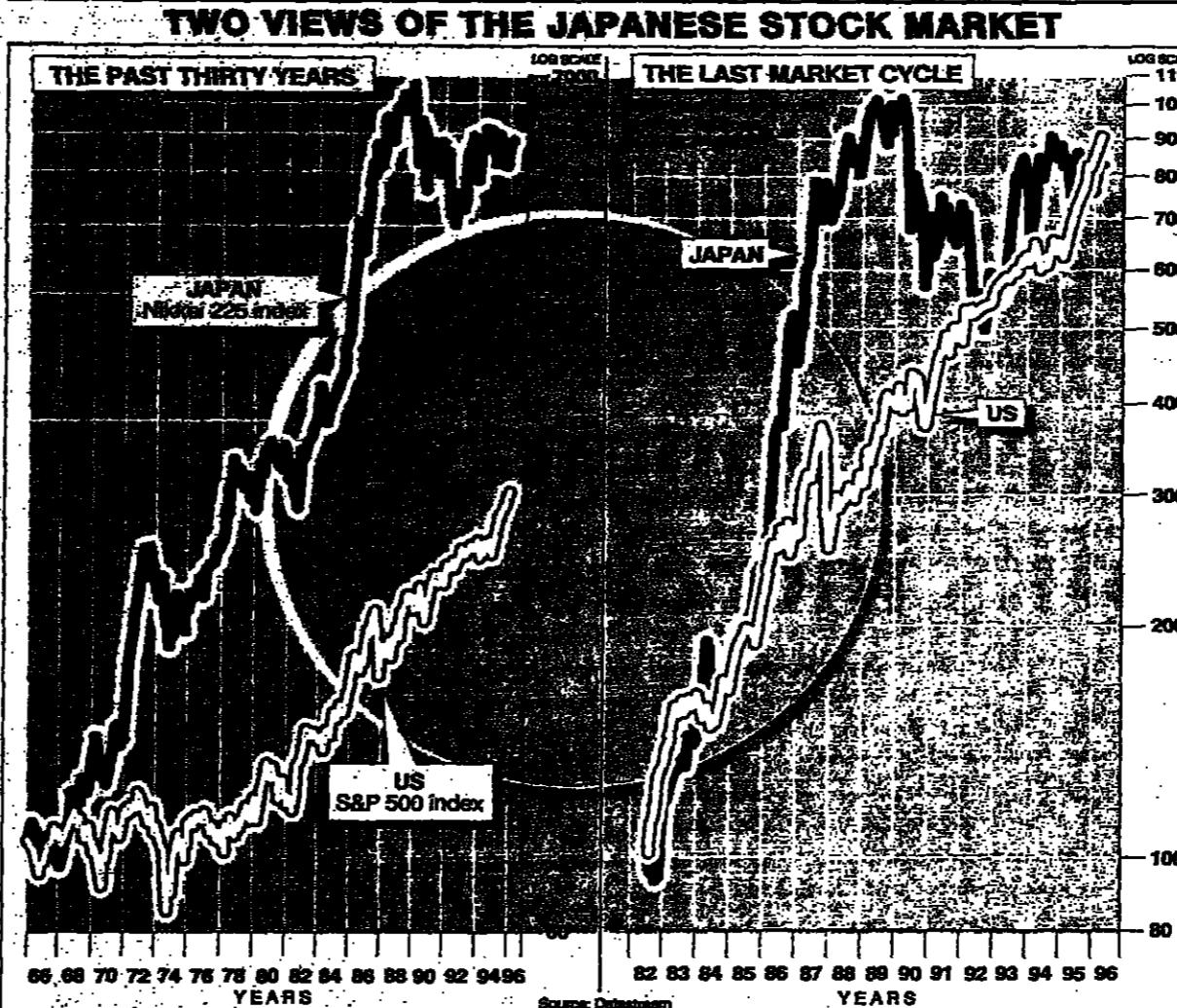
Japan, however, is actually the more interesting leg of the global strategists' costly two-way bet. According to the latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup surveys, UK fund managers are bulls on Japan, outunning bears by a margin of 89 per cent to 11 per cent. A similar poll of Continental European managers showed a British margin of 78-22 and American surveys have come up with broadly similar results.

More remarkably still, according to a paper on Japan's new stockmarket "bubble" from David Asher, an Oxford-based consultant on Japanese finance, foreigners were net buyers of stock in every single month from March to December last year, while domestic investors were net sellers.

As a result, the foreign ownership of Japan's stock market has jumped from 6.7 per cent to 9.3 per cent in less than a year. Given that the "free-float" of shares which are not owned for reasons of long-term business relationships stands at about 40 per cent of the total, foreigners now own roughly one quarter of all the tradable equities in Japan.

The first question to ask is why foreign investors have been so bullish about Japan.

It is at this point that I part company with the conventional



There have been several very wise — for both financial and economic reasons. There is now little doubt that the three-year recession in Japan is finally over. For the first time since the late 1960s, industrial production in Japan is now growing faster than almost anywhere else in the OECD. Interest rates are almost at zero, the money supply is expanding strongly and consumer confidence is rising. Most importantly, the yen has weakened steadily against every other major currency.

There has, however, been another — much more dubious — reason for buying shares in Japan. This is the argument which can crudely be summarised as "what goes down must come up".

Everyone knows that Japan is fundamentally the world's most successful economy and that Japanese equities have been the greatest investments in the entire history of finance. Everyone knows that the Nikkei peaked in 1989 at 39,000 and then crashed to 20,000 in nine months.

Everyone also knows that this collapse was a delayed-action replay of the 1987 crash on Wall Street, that Wall Street soon recovered and that American share prices soared after the 1991 recession to double their value before the 1987 crash.

Such recollections have led many analysts to conclude that Japanese shares will quickly bounce back to their previous peaks — and then probably take off on another gravity-defying surge. All Tokyo needs is for the obvious macroeconomic and financial levers to be removed — get rid of the high yen, solve the bad debt problem and the Nikkei will take off on the bull market of a lifetime.

It is at this point that I part company with the conventional

bubble". Quite simply, the present price of Japanese shares — even with the Nikkei at "only" 20,000 — already discounts a profits recovery of staggering proportions. The figures are mind-boggling, even by Japanese standards.

The price/earnings ratio on the Nikkei, in terms of historic earnings already announced, was 130 in mid-January. As Mr Asher notes this is 30 per cent higher than the peak of the 1989 "bubble" and six times higher than the P/E on Wall Street in the present boom. Everyone knows that profits in Japan will rise, but even on prospective earnings, the P/E ratio is between 70 and 80. As Mr Asher notes: "Even though equity returns in Japan at

present are on the way up, their growth rate is far behind the expectations reflected in stock values. At some point the laws of gravity will prevail."

Japan's equity valuations have traditionally been extremely high P/Es — partly reflecting very high rates of investment and of depreciation — because of the exceptionally fast growth of the economy and of company profits. But it is still reasonable to expect such exceptional growth?

Most Japanese believe it is not — which is presumably why they are huge sellers of their own equity market. Foreigners, by contrast, seem to believe that present valuations in Tokyo are a bargain and therefore, implicitly, that Japan will soon return to extremely rapid growth.

This seems unlikely. While the yen will probably weaken again, it is unlikely to move anywhere near the level of Y120 which Japan needs to restore decent industrial profitability — at least until after the US presidential election. In the longer-term Japan's financial balances are shifting. The era of big trade surpluses is over. The Government is now running chronic budget deficits and demographics could eventually transform Japan from the world's largest saver into a debtor nation.

Most importantly, the combination of the bubble economy, the yen shock, the trade pressure from America and the exhaustion of opportunities to "catching up" with American technology have transformed Japan from a very high growth economy to one which can, at best, hope to grow only slightly faster than the OECD average.

None of this implies that the Tokyo market will fall far below current levels, since

A brave move
but will it be
the right one?

Ross Tieman questions the wisdom of Kvaerner's interest in Trafalgar

Kvaerner is the Norwegian word for mill. It seems fitting that Norway's biggest company has turned itself into a £3 billion-a-year business by lifting the millions of failing shipyards from the necks of European governments. But why has the company now turned its philanthropy from taxpayers to investors in British engineering and construction conglomerates with blown-away balance sheets?

A 26 per cent stake in Amec, the oil rig builder, is already weighing upon Kvaerner's own under-resourced balance sheet in the wake of a failed bid. Now Kvaerner has approached Trafalgar House, the Camard cruise liners to John Brown engineering group, with a view to making an agreed takeover offer.

Sceptics suggest that Kvaerner's aim is to build a substantial United Kingdom business tax-free, courtesy of Trafalgar's massive accrued tax losses. But many of Trafalgar's businesses fall outside Kvaerner's declared core activities of shipbuilding, offshore oil and gas engineering, mechanical engineering, and wood-pulp processing technology.

Well, corporate strategy is a moveable feast. But even if it convinces Trafalgar investors, Kvaerner is going to have to explain to the City what skills its history has imparted that will make a success of the acquisition.

Kvaerner can trace its roots to the earliest days of Norway's industrial revolution, when engineering companies were set up to substitute home-produced machines for the imported equipment used by farmers and foresters.

Perhaps the best summary of all these arguments is suggested by the charts. The first shows that buying Japanese shares in the 1960s and early 1970s was indeed the investment opportunity of a lifetime. The second, however, suggests that Japan ceased to be a land of investment nutrients many years ago.

In fact, since the start of the present bull market in July 1982, a long-term investor would have done almost exactly as well putting money in America or in Japan.

Looking several years ahead, this pattern or rough equality seems likely to continue. In the short term, however, the prospects are less favorable, and financial conditions are riskier, in Tokyo than in New York.

The Clyde-based Govan yard, owned by Kvaerner

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BAe in plan to reshape Airbus

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE and Daimler-Benz are relaunching their campaign to reorganise Airbus Industrie. They say the European planemakers consortium must become a limited company to regain the initiative in its global sales battle with Boeing of America and fund the development of the A3XX, a super-jumbo.

Reforms by President Jacques Chirac for Aérospatiale, the French state planemaker that owns 37.9 per cent of Airbus and assembles most of the airliner range could open the door to a breakthrough, they believe.

Jürgen Schrempp, chairman of Daimler, said: "The businesses are in agreement; the politicians are in agreement; the question is only in which way and with what kind of speed. Our opinion is that it should be done as soon as possible."

Dick Evans, BAe's chief executive, is expected to confirm the new urgency for an overhaul that would free Airbus to buy components from the cheapest suppliers able to meet quality requirements when he unveils BAe's profits for 1995 later today.

Industry sources say the moves are necessary to enable Airbus' 20 per cent owned by BAe, to match Boeing's vigorous cost-cutting drive. It is also seen as a prelude to launching an Airbus super-jumbo that would destroy Boeing's 747 monopoly. According to a senior European industry executive, Boeing makes \$30 million on each 747, and uses half to cross-subsidise sales of smaller planes.

A growing rapprochement between Daimler and BAe is expected to open the door to deeper cooperation and even joint ventures. BAe and Daimler co-operate on developing and building the Eurofighter combat plane, but the Germans are apparently keen to establish deeper commercial ties.



Sir Keith Stuart, chairman of Associated British Ports, which is set to continue its high level of capital investment during this year and 1997

ABP investment to continue as profits increase by 10%

By CARL MORTISHED

HIGH levels of capital investment are set to continue at Associated British Ports, which yesterday announced a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £88.4 million in 1995.

ABP invested £77 million in its business last year of which £61 million related to improvements to the ports. The total spend was 30 per cent up on 1994 and Sir Keith Stuart, the chairman, expects investment in the ports to rise slightly in 1996 and continue at the same level for the following year.

The dividend is up 18.2 per cent for the year at 6.5p, but the entire increase came in the interim payout and the final dividend is pegged at 3.5p. Dividend cover fell from three to 2.7 times. Sir Keith said he was happy with a dividend cover rate fluctuating between two and three times. "Part of the decision must be the level of capital expenditure," he said, indicating that current high levels limited the ability to reduce cover.

Total cargo tonnage passing through the ports grew by 4 per cent to 114.5 million tonnes with good increases in vehicle exports, containers and roll-on/roll-off traffic. However, timber imports had slowed due to the weak construction markets. Sir Keith said that in spite of the slowing in the world economy he expected further growth.

Port activities contributed £102 million compared with £92 million in 1994, including £26.8 million (£23.9 million) of

port-related rental income. Grimsby and Immingham with P&O, achieved a 16 per cent rise in container throughput to 683,000 units. Sir Keith said container traffic was up 20 per cent in the current period and more capacity was being built with the aim of bringing the throughput capability up to 1 million units.

The company did not take any business from the Port of Liverpool during the six-week closure caused by the strike at Mersey Docks, said Sir Keith. "Our Southampton container terminal was already operating at full capacity," he said.

Non-port property income rose 12 per cent to £13.2 million in 1995 owing to the reduction in rent-free periods. Grosvenor Square Properties sold an office building at St Martin's Lane, central London, for £15 million and reinvested £9 million in another office building in Milton Keynes, yielding 10 per cent. Sir Keith said the policy was to recycle some of GSP's capital in property developments.

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Grosvenor Square Properties sold an office building at St Martin's Lane, central London, for £1

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP
Inveresk shares
on first-half war

Subsidence costs

Culley praises new

Ticket for Visual

Lakshmi boosts

Dove moves into

ue
6Clears the mess
by getting through

It's not magic. But it may yet work miracles.

This is the trademark of a completely different kind of pharmaceutical venture.

The recently-merged Pharmacia & Upjohn.

It's a partnership that has created a company of quite remarkable depth and scope: over 30,000 people working in 50 countries and serving 200 million people around the world.

And it's for those 200 million people that this announcement should come as very good news.

Because the merger will give two pools of specialised medical talent the opportunity to work together for the first time ever.

Resulting in real, tangible benefits in the fight

against cancer, AIDS, infectious diseases and many other medical conditions.

This merger is not simply a matter of shared resources, however.

It is also about shared ideals.

Our trademark stands as a symbol for humanity, hope and inspiration.

Values that we intend to apply to every single aspect of the way we do business.

You are surprised to hear such sentiments coming from a global pharmaceutical company?

This is not the last time
we'll be surprising you.

You can be sure of that.



**Pharmacia
&Upjohn**



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Shares close at best of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.											
High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Vol.	PE	Yield	EPS	High	Low	Company
1998	1997		\$	%	M	X	%	\$	1998	1997	
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES											
476	475	Heublein	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Heublein
477	476	Holiday Inn	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Holiday Inn
478	477	Interstate	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Interstate
479	478	Levi Strauss	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Levi Strauss
480	479	Marlboro	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Marlboro
481	480	McDonald's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	McDonald's
482	481	Miller Lite	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Miller Lite
483	482	Mountain Dew	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Mountain Dew
484	483	Nestle	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Nestle
485	484	Philip Morris	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Philip Morris
486	485	Stroh's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Stroh's
BANKS											
487	486	American Express	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	American Express
488	487	BankAmerica	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	BankAmerica
489	488	Bank One	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Bank One
490	489	Bank of America	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Bank of America
491	490	Bank of New York	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Bank of New York
492	491	Bankers Trust	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Bankers Trust
493	492	Chase Manhattan	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Chase Manhattan
494	493	Citibank	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Citibank
495	494	First Boston	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	First Boston
496	495	JP Morgan	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	JP Morgan
497	496	Lehman Brothers	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Lehman Brothers
498	497	Morgan Stanley	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Morgan Stanley
499	498	Salomon Brothers	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Salomon Brothers
500	499	Security Pacific	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Security Pacific
501	500	State Savings	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	State Savings
502	501	US Bancorp	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	US Bancorp
503	502	Wells Fargo	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Wells Fargo
BREWERIES, PUBS & RESTAURANTS											
504	503	Adler's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Adler's
505	504	Applebee's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Applebee's
506	505	Bruegger's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Bruegger's
507	506	Carlucci's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Carlucci's
508	507	Chili's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Chili's
509	508	Costello's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Costello's
510	509	Cracker Barrel	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Cracker Barrel
511	510	Darden Restaurants	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Darden Restaurants
512	511	Domino's Pizza	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Domino's Pizza
513	512	Fleming's Prime Steakhouse	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
514	513	Hard Rock Cafe	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Hard Rock Cafe
515	514	Holiday Inn	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Holiday Inn
516	515	Jack in the Box	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Jack in the Box
517	516	Jack-O-Lantern	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Jack-O-Lantern
518	517	Landry's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Landry's
519	518	Long John Silver's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Long John Silver's
520	519	Outback Steakhouse	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Outback Steakhouse
521	520	Papa John's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Papa John's
522	521	Pepper's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Pepper's
523	522	Red Lobster	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Red Lobster
524	523	Shoney's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Shoney's
525	524	T.G.I. Friday's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	T.G.I. Friday's
526	525	Tommy Bahama	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Tommy Bahama
527	526	Wendy's	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Wendy's
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION											
528	527	ABC Corp	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	ABC Corp
529	528	Acme United	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Acme United
530	529	Alcoa	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Alcoa
531	530	Aluminum Co. of America	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Aluminum Co. of America
532	531	Architectural Coatings	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Architectural Coatings
533	532	Armco	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Armco
534	533	Associated Builders	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Associated Builders
535	534	Associated General Contractors	12.50	-1.00	1,200	12	1.00	0.10	12.50	12.00	Associated General Contractors
536	535	Avonite	12.50	-1.00	1,200						

Targeting treatment and value for money

**David Loshak
explains how
managed care
helps to cut costs**

If cost control is the bugbear of the NHS, it is no less crucial for the private sector. Not only do major advances in science, medicine, surgery and technology create increasing patient expectations and demand for services, but the population is ageing.

The number and size of claims rise in consequence, inevitably sending up premiums. The danger is that, unchecked, they could become unaffordable, and some companies are indeed considering whether or not to continue medical insurance as a company-paid benefit. For the private sector – insurers, hospitals and subscribers alike – cost containment is clearly imperative.

That has helped to bring the concept of managed care to the fore. "This is not just another way of trimming back private healthcare," says PPP Healthcare's group director Jonathan Russell. "It seeks to maximise the quality of the benefits available under health schemes at the best possible price."

Managed care entails assessing treatment efficacy and cost effectiveness when healthcare starts to be given rather than when it is completed. A hip operation, for instance, would be authorised only when all non-invasive techniques had been tried or ruled out, and when the disability had reached a certain degree.

By influencing costs before and during treatment, managed care "shifts responsibility for some of the decision-making involved during treatment to the payer, and with that shift comes perceived responsibility for treatment outcome", says Peter Owen, PPP's chief executive.

Managed care can control costs by ensuring that services are provided only when necessary and delivered efficiently in the appropriate setting. It moves the cost-benefit assessment of treatment to the point in the process where it can influence clinical decisions and help restrict costs.

This may be operated by corporate employers themselves, third party administrators or insurers. Among the many provident and profit insurers now offering managed care are such leading concerns as Bupa, Western Provident Association, Norwich Union and Cigna Employee Benefits.

The essence of successful managed care is that it encourages insurers, clients and care providers to share information on costs and to control them at every step, while still ensuring that necessary treatment is given.

Also, insurers cap limit claims by excluding the most expensive

But managed care can be only part of the answer to spiralling costs. Another key element must be maintaining health in the workplace. The CBI calculates that absence from work because of illness costs £13 billion a year.

Managers increasingly recognise that much of this is preventable and that once someone gets to work, his or her health problems can be theirs too. Many companies therefore design their job specifications and training to alleviate stress – estimated to account for 80 million work days lost annually. Most restrict smoking and drinking, many now provide healthier food in staff canteens and some encourage exercise sessions at work, all of which help to prevent heart disease – a further 35 million lost working days. Proper seating can prevent the development of back pain – another 3.5 million days.

However, most British health at work legislation does not oblige employers to carry out specified procedures. Occupational health provision is therefore still on a relatively small scale compared with other major EU countries. Although keeping employees fit reduces absenteeism and is highly cost-effective, thousands of British companies still lack any formal occupational health arrangements.



Health screening: staff fitness checks reduce company sickness

Dilemma of an age-old problem

David Loshak reports on the difficulties of finding residential care for the elderly

tee to lament that "health authorities tell us in all seriousness that long-term nursing care is not a function of health services".

From April this year, anyone with assets (including their home) of at least £10,000 will be expected to pay towards the costs of any long-term care they need. The savings threshold that cuts off all state help towards the costs of long-term care will rise from £8,000 to £16,000, and the benefits payable under long-term care insurance will be tax-exempt.

But as a survey by the consumer research company Mintel has shown, only a tenth of adults believe in the need for such insurance. It therefore seems likely, despite the Chancellor's changes, that more elderly people will be forced to sell their homes to finance their care.

Magy Ishak, chief executive of

CrestaCare, which runs 51 nursing homes with 3,000 beds, is one of many in the field of long-term care who argue that pensioners who have been thrifty for a lifetime should not have to pay anything for their long-term nursing and residential care in old age.

On the other hand, the soaring total cost of long-term provision is becoming an unacceptable burden on taxpayers – more than £2 billion this year compared to £10 million in 1979.

Most of the nation's 550 nursing and residential care places are still in homes run on traditional owner-management lines, but rising financial barriers to entering this market mean that the small business sector now accounts for proportionately fewer newly registered beds than a decade ago. Major for-profit providers have rapidly increased their share of the

nursing home market to nearly a third – some 180,000 beds. Alongside private and NHS provision, there are the religious bodies, charitable foundations and housing associations which make up the voluntary non-profit sector, which accounts for some 67,000 places. The largest, Anchor Housing Association, with more than 2,600 registered beds, runs more registered residential and nursing home places than any of the for-profit chains except for Takare, Westminster Health Care and CrestaCare.

Although many new homes have first-rate facilities and high standards of care, there are some which are below par, and full information can be hard to obtain.

Charities such as Age Concern and Help the Aged publish guides on the kind of homes available, their costs and any financial help there may be, and Bupa's Care Finder nursing home advisory service gives similar assistance to both members and non-members in Hampshire and Sussex.

Pick the right policy to suit your pocket

But watch for health exclusion clauses and restrictions, advises Judith Oliver

Competition in the UK market for private medical insurance (PMI) is growing at breakneck speed. No longer do Bupa, PPP Healthcare and Western Provident Association have the field all to themselves. Now they compete with more than 30 other insurers for the attention of Britain's 6.6 million PMI customers.

Cheaper schemes might satisfy a wide range of customers but they mean more exclusion clauses and restrictions to insurance cover. PMI purchasers should take great care to ensure they understand the cover they are buying, says Peter Dally, managing director of Prime Health, a subsidiary of Standard Life.

A recent survey conducted for Prime Health by Gallup revealed that more than half of the 2,500 interviewees expected a policy to cover outpatient treatment, consultations and tests. But the majority of those taking out cheaper schemes would be disappointed with their cover.

Insurance companies, aware of the concerns caused by exclusion clauses, now offer top-of-the-range cover. Norwich Union's Premier Care plan covers private GP consultations as well as inpatient, outpatient and day-patient care.

Premier Care covers many things specifically excluded by other PMI plans, including psychiatric illness, normal pregnancy, infertility, routine dentistry and long-term renal dialysis.

Rates are calculated individually, but a couple and two children would pay £3240 per month.

PPP Healthcare, the UK's second largest PMI provider, offers a Platinum plan which covers customers for almost any ailment. Andy Brown, marketing director, says: "This plan is unashamedly expensive but is individually underwritten so customers can be covered even for pre-existing conditions." Our typical family might pay £452.00.

Alternatives or additions to PMI plans are growing. Major medical expenses insurance pays out a cash lump sum if the policyholder has to undergo surgery. Permanent health insurance replaces income if the policyholder is off work for a long time and critical illness insurance pays out a lump sum on diagnosis of specific illnesses such as a stroke.

Britain's largest cash plan provider, Hospital Saving Association, will pay out for 19 different conditions including maternity, dental treatment and chiropody. Cash plans are popular, but would seldom be enough to pay for private medical care.

"BEFORE ACCEPTANCE AS A SUITABLE RISK TO THE PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICY, THE SAID PATIENT IS CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGED TO SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE A MEDICAL EXAMINATION AS CARRIED OUT BY THE PATIENT'S GENERAL PRACTITIONER OR BY AN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINER AS APPOINTED BY THE INSURER. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY RULES, IT IS ALSO MANDATORY THAT THE SAID MEDICAL EXAMINATION BE CARRIED OUT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES AS LAID DOWN BY THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. PENDING RECEIPT OF THE AFOREMENTIONED MEDICAL EXAMINATION REPORT IN TRIPPLICATE AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH FORM VR12394, AND THAT'S THE AMENDED IMA VERSION, THE PATIENT SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ALL ESICAL REIMBURSEMENT TOWARDS THE COST OF ALL TREATMENT, INCLUDING IN-PATIENT TREATMENT, CONSULTATIONS, DAYCASE TREATMENT AND ALSO TREATMENT BY SPECIALIST. THE PATIENT WILL ALSO BE LIABLE FOR THE EXPENSE OF ANY TREATMENT OF ANY EXISTING CONDITION NOT SPECIFIED DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSED PRESENT AT ANY TIME SINCE THE DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY IN REGARD TO ANY PREEXISTING CONDITION DIAGNOSED PRESENT PRIOR TO FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY IN REGARD TO THE EXPENSE OF ANY TREATMENT OF ANY EXISTING CONDITION NOT SPECIFIED DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSED PRESENT AT ANY TIME SINCE THE DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY IN REGARD TO ANY PREEXISTING CONDITION DIAGNOSED PRESENT PRIOR TO FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY IN REGARD TO THE EXPENSE OF ANY TREATMENT OF ANY EXISTING CONDITION NOT SPECIFIED DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSED PRESENT AT ANY TIME SINCE THE DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY IN REGARD TO ANY PREEXISTING CONDITION DIAGNOSED PRESENT PRIOR TO FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE 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■ THEATRE 1

Not quite a complete Coward: Peter Bowles opens in a new staging of *Present Laughter*



■ THEATRE 2

With Phillip Schofield in the dreamcoat, *Joseph* comes bouncing back, as larky as ever



■ THEATRE 3

Another classic film spoil? The Crucible's *La Dolce Vita* is but a sad echo of Fellini



■ OPERA

Covent Garden continues to fine-tune its controversial *Twilight of the Gods*

THEATRE: Missing the point of the Master's alter-ego; over the top again with the Bible; a flashy farrago of Fellini

Hungry for ham and ego

Present Laughter
Aldwych

Neil Coward created the character of the actor Garry Essendine, played it when *Present Laughter* was first staged in 1942, and later confessed that yes, it was essentially a portrait of himself. And when Peter Bowles is patrolling his exotic cream-and-gold pad in a silk dressing-gown, exuding debonair charm and svelte charisma, you can certainly believe it. He is Coward, plus a tiny black moustache, plus a certain steely aloofness, plus an odd, interesting melancholy somewhere inside.

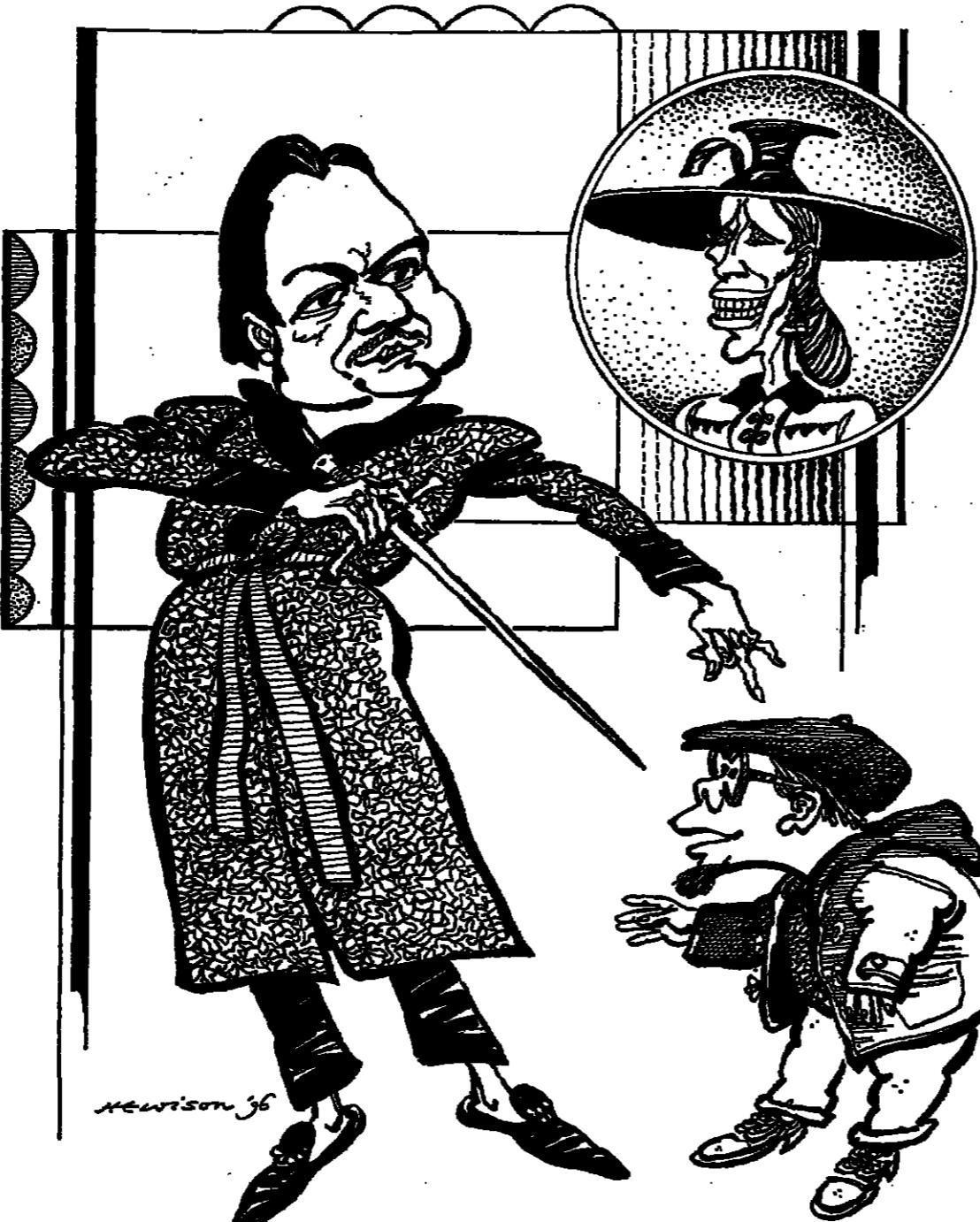
But Garry was never quite Coward, nor was Coward quite Garry. Can you imagine the fastidious Master spending 18 months playing the title-role in a period piece called *The Lost Cavalier*? Garry is variously described in *Present Laughter* as flamboyant, overbearing, posuring, glittering, a show-off, God, and someone who cannot help overacting whether he is on the stage or off it. In short, he has more in common with Judith Bliss, the egomaniac actress who is at the centre of *Hay Fever*, than with the shrewd, kindly man I recall treating a tumbledown press corps with scrupulous politeness when I was a young hack in Manchester back in the 1960s.

It is the part of Coward which is not Garry that Bowles fails to catch at the Aldwych, and unfortunately it is rather a large part. Whenever he is required to be cool, incisive and a bit formidable, he scores strongly. Whenever he is asked to be a self-obsessed, self-glorifying thespian, he becomes forced and awkward.

This means that lines which should vault hammy and hilariously across the footlights — "Mr Essendine spends his whole life understanding absolutely everything, and the strain of it all is driving him step by step to a suicide's grave" — do not take off at all.

Nor does Richard Olivier's revival achieve lift-off itself. Everywhere Garry faces pressures, mostly of his own making, that can and should be highly comic. Visitor after visitor comes to embarrass, pester or berate him: the starry-eyed girl he has seduced; the appallingly earnest young playwright he has been too vain to turn away; the sexy siren who is married to one of his best friends and having an affair with the other; the two men themselves, both bawling with indignation. All this happens on the evening before he leaves for a longish tour of Africa.

But the supporting cast is pretty uneven in quality and, worse, works too hard to amuse us. For instance, wouldn't it be more real and therefore funnier if David Arnell gave us the young playwright Coward actually created, with his insecurity and "gruff defiance", rather than a goofy eccentric



From left: Peter Bowles as Garry Essendine, Deborah Grant (Liz Essendine) and David Arnell (Roland Mauler)

who capers about like a chimp on speed? Olivier's production could certainly be more subtly observant. When he injects bits of broadish business into the action he gives the impression of mistrusting the play.

But since I recall making much the same point when Tom Conti revived it in 1993, perhaps the play is no longer trustworthy? I refuse to believe so.

Present Laughter has its serious side, touching as it does on such subjects as

the cost of charm to the charmer and of fame to the celebrity, and it has its mischievous one. Garry is, or should be, part of the line of attractive Coward monsters that began with the Bliss family and the wayward protagonists of *Private Lives*, continued through the bohemian trio in *Design for Living*, and ended with Elvira, the poltergeist in *Blithe Spirit*.

They are all selfish, erratic, difficult, even

maddening; but equally they are all stylish, witty and fun. Their fellow-characters find it impossible to live with them and hard to live without them. And in the theatre they are, or can be, terrific company. But it will, I fear, take a better production of *Present Laughter* than this to prove that Garry Essendine merits top billing in that jester's pantheon.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Ring newly polished

OPERA

Götterdämmerung
Covent Garden



THOSE who don't respond to Richard Jones's anarchic production of *The Ring* will probably remain unconverted by Tuesday's revival of the final, most intractable segment — intractable because we haven't quite caught up with Wagner's prophetic timescale yet, still being stuck somewhere in the middle of the second act. But those who do respond will be fascinated by Jones's adjustments to the staging since it was new four months ago. Brünnhilde's Immolation, in particular, has been completely re-thought: it is simpler, clearer and slightly more encouraging in that it seems to suggest that we re-run the action following Brünnhilde's awakening and try to make a better job of it this time.

There will doubtless be further adjustments here and in the other three operas, which increases impatience for the first complete cycles in the autumn. That will be the time to start to come to terms with — or reject — Jones's vision. As it is, few could fail to respond to the sheer horror of the society he presents to us, the decadence of the Gibichung rulers, the violence of their soldiery, the drugs, the drink, the brutalisation of women. Impatience for the autumn is mingled with a certain dread.

Meanwhile, the musical performance goes from strength to strength. Bernard Haitink cut five minutes or more off the running time of the first act, which put the caring staff in a tizzy and increased dramatic impetus

without sacrificing a jot of the musical expressiveness or sensuous beauty of sound that characterises his Wagner.

Cast changes brought their own shifts of emphasis. Donald Maxwell was less of a prat than his predecessor as Gunther, altogether more formidable a figure. The new Siegfried, Wolfgang Fassler, has a bright, slightly unfriendly tone and stamina. Although nervous at first, he started to sing beautifully in the last act and weathered a minor accident heroically. He embodies Jones's Jack-the-ladish view of the character with a certain charm. Kurt Rydl (Hagen) was in far more

RODNEY MILNES

SINFONIA 21's programmes always show enterprise. Its current season at Smith Square is no exception, with four premieres included alongside imaginatively chosen works both old and new — and, in collaboration with *The Times*, audience response is being monitored through questionnaires.

The programming seems to be based on the principle of sweetening the pill, mixing contemporary pieces with well-loved music. But on Tuesday, the best-known work was also the least interesting: Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*. It received a rhapsodic performance from just 13 players, a small enough ensemble to remind one of its domestic origins. Martyn Brabbins, the conductor, kept the music from wallowing, but was unable to disguise the fact that it takes a long time to say rather little.

Much more beguiling was Berg's arrangement of the Johann Strauss waltz *Wine*.

Berio's concise one-woman show of coloratura singing, coughs,

sobs, laughter and onomatopoeic sounds. Her strong, silvery tone was heard to good effect in *Song Offerings* by Jonathan Harvey. This 1985 score takes four Rabindranath Tagore poems, although the lush settings do not always help the words to come across. Harvey's music captures the spirituality and sensuality of the lines, but is not always engaging, sounding at times like Herbert Howells via short-wave radio.

In its first British performance, Kargel's *Phantasiestück* proved a rich, exciting piece. It is scored for flute and piano, with a separate layer of music for an accompanying ensemble that can be omitted. At St John's the ensemble was placed in the gallery, providing musical and acoustic contrasts to the sparkling, witty dialogue the pianist Julian Roltan and flautist Anthony Robb were engaged in at the front.

JOHN ALLISON

Not beyond redemption

HAVING given the first performance of her monumental *Charthes* two or three years ago, the BBC Philharmonic knows that Judith Bingham thinks big and that she also thinks mystic. But the sheer size and expressive ambition of her latest orchestral work, *Beyond Redemption*, must have exceeded even this orchestra's expectations.

Certainly, *Beyond Redemption* is a challenging score. It is demanding in the number and variety of instruments it requires, in the time needed for its preparation, and in faith it requires in the quality of its inspiration.

Its first performance — by the BBC PO under its principal conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier in Manchester (and on Radio 3) earlier this month — *Beyond Redemption*

BBC PO/Tortelier
Free Trade Hall

was a challenge to the audience, too. The problem lies not so much in its language, which has much in common with that of Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony*, but in its construction.

All in one movement and not far short of half an hour long, it needs further and further from comprehension as episode succeeds episode and impressions accumulate without falling into any kind of detectable shape. *Charthes* is more realistically constructed and much more successful in that respect.

Recurse to the composer's programme note on the new work, which sets the scene in

Bram Stoker's Carpathian Mountains and which invokes Marian prophecies of the Second World War and visions of aggression beyond redemption; is of little help. With every new horror story, the returns from stamping rhythms and from orchestral writing at the strident extremes — the brass is particularly prominent, both on and off the stage — inevitably diminish.

It would be difficult to know where to begin in revising *Beyond Redemption* but there is so much in it that is spontaneous in expression, individual in conception and dramatic in sound that it would surely be worth resuscitating it by recasting it in some other form.

GERALD LARNER

NEW MUSIC

Signs of things to come

Sinfonia 21
St John's

Woman and Song. The scoring, for string quartet, piano and harmonium, reflects that it too was designed for domestic performance, and the six Sinfonia members relished its intimacy while dispatching it with Viennese verve.

The Canadian soprano Valdine Anderson was striking in *Sequenza III*. Berio's concise one-woman show of coloratura singing, coughs,

sobs, laughter and onomatopoeic sounds. Her strong, silvery tone was heard to good effect in *Song Offerings* by Jonathan Harvey. This 1985 score takes four Rabindranath Tagore poems, although the lush settings do not always help the words to come across. Harvey's music captures the spirituality and sensuality of the lines, but is not always engaging, sounding at times like Herbert Howells via short-wave radio.

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JOHN ALLISON

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30p CONCERT TOKEN 5

Absent minded memory

MEMOIR. It would seem, is the genre of the moment: impressionistic autobiographical recollections, once the province of the aged and the famous, now flow from the pens of the young and the very young. The requisite for such accounts is all too often a difficult childhood, ideally combined with an intimate knowledge of alcoholism or depression.

With his gentle book *Speak Sunlight*, Alan Jolis, a novelist who has reached the august age of 43, bucks the trend. The title's Nabokovian echo is not wholly misleading: like *Speak, Memory*, this is a nostalgic reflection upon a privileged past, in which a pre-pubescent polyglot is exposed to delights many will not know in a lifetime: Jolis, however, has a distinct purpose, his book is largely a hymn to the Spanish housekeeper, Maruja, who raised him, and to her butler husband, Manolo.

Although born in the United States, Jolis spent his childhood in Paris, the youngest son of affluent — but not, it would seem, contented — parents. The little boy summered in Franco's Spain, in the care



Jolis: a love song in which the lover remains invisible

Claire Messud

SPEAK SUNLIGHT
By Alan Jolis
Hamish Hamilton, £15

of Maruja and Manolo, and in the company of a host of Spanish cousins. Jolis' père et mère are all but invisible in this account, as are Alan's brothers: the boy's experiences in Spain from the Galician barnyards of Maruja's family to the elegance of Jolis's uncles' homes in Madrid, were those of an orphan.

Maruja, herself childless, doted on little Alan — or Alfonso, as Jolis names his character in the book — and Jolis captures some charming

details about their unconditional bond. To his childhood self, however, Maruja's most notable characteristic was her obesity. The book opens by informing us that "Her pudgy cheeks, double chin, have no age", and Jolis returns relentlessly throughout to her puffing plumpness and her straining buttons. Even her feet are fat. This excess goes hand in hand with an exuberant temperament: her husband Manolo, meanwhile, is scrawny, taciturn and hen-pecked.

Jolis captures these basic outlines, but both Maruja and Manolo ultimately remain stereotypes of Mediterranean peasantry. Unknowable in their private lives to Jolis the child, they continue to be so in

his adult reconstruction: while the little boy in no way pampered his housekeeper (and, indeed, was rite when his aunts did so), he was also never able to penetrate beyond her role as a servant. Jolly, fussy, proud, Maruja as Jolis conjures her lacks the complexity that, in life, she must surely have had. And yet she emerges more clearly than her husband, of whom one can only say with certainty that his character was weak and his sense of humour lewd.

Jolis cheerfully concedes that his young Spanish cousins — all of them girls — were indistinguishable to him: "I can tell them apart, but just barely." When he was twelve, they provided his first moments of sexual awakening, but they did so apparently without revealing a single personality trait. Even the young Jolis himself, alias Alfonso, remains murky and undefined, a shadow of his

SPEAK Sunlight is a memoir without characters, a love song in which the beloved and the lover remain invisible. Jolis does, however, successfully convey his passion for Spanish landscapes, and the book contains vivid set pieces about trailling through tapas bars, flamenco dancing and running with the bulls in Pamplona. It is a shame that Jolis's recollections, so evidently suffused with love, do not translate better onto the page. One would hate to think that only horrible childhoods make good books.

Drama and detection

Bruce Boucher

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE
Metal Sculpture of the Roman Baroque.
By Jennifer Montagu
Yale, £40



Moses, now attributed to Jacob Cobaeert (c. 1600) from the church of S. Luigi dei Francesi in Rome

AT THE conclusion of his biography of Owen Glendower in 1931, J. E. Lloyd acclaimed him as "the father of modern Welsh Nationalism". Little more about Glyn Dwr's life has subsequently been discovered but the revolution in historical method over the past 50 years has enabled Professor Rees Davies to present the Welsh Revolt, and hence the figure of Glyn Dwr, himself, in a new light.

As his own researches have made clear, Wales in the 14th century was a colonial society. Its land was divided into great lordships held by the Crown and the English aristocracy, normally absentees, whose monopoly of economic, military and judicial power enabled them to enslave the native population and transfer vast sums to England for their personal consumption.

Not merely were the Welsh peasants and squires reduced to poverty but their status as *untermenschen* was enforced by exclusion from English law, English land, and all but very local offices. Wales, as Davies vividly defines it, was two societies, not merely economically and le-

Gerald Harris

THE REVOLT OF OWAIN GLYN DWR
By R. R. Davies
OUP, £20

gally but geographically, linguistically and culturally. The Wales of English castles, boroughs and settlement in the southern lowlands had little contact with, or knowledge of, the Welsh Wales of the upland centre and north. Instead, by turning their backs on each other they had managed to live at peace for over a century after Edward I's conquest. And then on September 16, 1400, Glyn Dwr's revolt came, as Davies says, "like a bolt from the blue".

Why is not entirely clear. It was certainly not a peasant rising against lords, like that of 1381 in England or the *Jacquerie* in France. It was started by Glyn Dwr's family and friends, who proclaimed

him Prince of Wales, and was directed against the English settlements. Who was Owain Glyn Dwr? In Welsh society he was heir to the princely dynasties of Deheubarth and Powys and successor to that of Gwynedd; incontestably the princely leader of the Welsh people. In English society his modest livelihood did not even qualify him for the rank of knight.

The ambiguity of his status embodied the predicament of all the Welsh *uchelwyr* or "high men": whether to take service with English lords as a means to advancement and greater wealth, or to live proudly and obscurely among their own countrymen. Glyn Dwr had chosen the latter until he saw his lands threatened by his English neighbour Lord Grey of Ruthin.

But if his revolt sprang from a personal quarrel, its conversion into a national movement would depend on the support of others of his class. Professor Rees Davies's researches have thrown new light on their careers and motivation. A few responded to Owain's call from the start, but many who held local office like Henry Don at Kidwelly and Maredudd ab Owain at Abergavenny joined only when the tide of Welsh success swept them along.

As it spread, the revolt gained its own impetus and meaning. In attempting to analyse and explain that meaning Rees Davies draws on native insights and a deep familiarity with Welsh literature and oral tradition. He stresses the intensely localised character of the revolt, its dependence on family ties and loyalties, its objectives conceived as much in terms of prophecy as military strategy, and its momentum sustained by the legends of bards and minstrels. Guerrilla warfare could quickly loosen the English hold outside the fortresses, but ultimately the Welsh lacked the manpower, technology and supplies to reduce

Peter Ackroyd on a poetic partnership of pride and prejudice

Inspiration from a bitter muse

union. He is primarily concerned with Eliot's social ideology, specifically as an unacknowledged spokesman for the "mandarin" class of intellectuals and servants of the State.

There are times when his conclusions resemble those of Julius, particularly when he writes of Eliot's distaste for "an institutional order contaminated by liberal-humanist ideas", but he is more generally interested in the poet as "the public moralist, the drily aggressive contrarian, the contented social climber and, above all, the successful London editor and publisher".

There was, indeed, a sea change. During the 1920s and 1930s Eliot became a respected "modern" poet, as elusive as he was difficult: by the end of the 1930s he was a "celebrity" whose somewhat vague and inconsistent pronouncements were treated with considerable respect.

In fact, Cooper suggests that Eliot planned his career with as much care and patience as he formulated the drafts of his later poetry. Certainly it would be true to say that he had already successfully ambushed the academic establishment, with a series of startling critical theories which seemed to elucidate his own poetry, and as a publisher he was also able to create the literary climate in which his own work could most usefully be placed. His role at Faber and Faber enabled him to popularise the exponents of modernism and to form the careers of such second-generation poets as W. H. Auden.

It is in this context that Cooper places *Four Quartets*, arguably the poem which did most to secure Eliot's public reputation. This is an interesting if on occasions over-deterministic reading, he presents it as a work which reconstructs, or reinvents, a moral sensibility for a post-war world marked by nihilism or disillusion.

It is a poem of private belief and public submissiveness, promoting a form of willed internal exile or alienation: the public and private worlds are separated by Eliot so that, according to Cooper, the servant of the State can act in one while retaining his integrity in the other. Culture, therefore, is a form of detachment. Poetry, as Auden once wrote, "makes nothing happen". This might be called the patrician attitude towards literature, translated more popularly as "don't rock the boat".

It is instructive to find two critical books that investigate Eliot's public role in so provocative and convincing a manner. It is too early to say whether such attention will eventually diminish or enlarge Eliot's poetic reputation, but Julius and Cooper have managed to throw a suggestive light upon a writer who has for too long been understood — and accepted — upon his own terms. There is only one mention in the *Concordance of "repentance"*.

San Luigi dei Francesi — were recovered after a theft with the author's help. Her fine eye is particularly attuned to the alterations necessary when an artist's conception had to be translated into a repousse dish or, as she would put it, between the two dimensions of a drawing and the two and one-half dimensions of a silver relief.

The most enjoyable episodes in the book come with the author's elucidation of diplomatic negotiations and lawsuits surrounding metalwork ordered for the fabulously wealthy Portuguese king, John V. Chicane and dubious intermediaries abounded as spiritual needs of a pious court responded to the financial straits of Benedict XIV. The papal curia was on to a good thing, but Roman

founders like Giuseppe Gagliardi went bankrupt casting silver statues after complex instructions from Lisbon.

Eventually a whole chapel and its liturgical kit was ordered from Rome, the metalwork alone rivalling the cost of a small church. Fortunately it survives, and its artistic sources are skilfully unravelled by Montagu. *Gold, Silver and Bronze* is not all picturesque tales, but the author's extensive knowledge of her subject is illuminating, her text well served by a handsome corpus of photographs, all garnished with her customary dry wit.

Bruce Boucher's *Andrea Paladio: The Architect in His Time* is published by Abbeville Press



Glyn Dwr: hero of legend

these or to meet the English on their own ground.

Yet there was an even more fatal flaw in Welsh aspirations. They could repudiate English rule, but could they replace it with a nation ruled by themselves? Rees Davies believes not. For Welshmen "Wales was no more than a state of mind" — not an organised state as the 14th century knew it. Under pressure from his Oxford-trained advisers Glyn Dwr dreamt one up. It was to have a

parliament, a national church, two universities, and it was to extend into the border shires. For a time, with backing from the Perches, the Scots, and the French, Glyn Dwr's Principality acquired some credibility; but as the English began to fall away,

WHAT HAD it left behind? A trail of destruction, and the ruin of Glyn Dwr's family and many others. But also the weakening of English lordship and the surrender of local power to a new generation of "high men" from whom sprang the Welsh squires of Tudor times. It was not for such that Glyn Dwr met his end, unreckoned and uncaptured, some time in 1415, while his erstwhile followers were fighting alongside Henry V at Agincourt.

Not as the father of modern Welsh nationalism, nor even as the would-be Prince of Wales, is Glyn Dwr to be remembered. In Rees Davies's view, but as the timeless hero of legend and the symbol of Welsh identity. Such is the conclusion of this perceptive and original anatomy of the Revolt of Owain Glyn Dwr.

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England's game plan focuses on Townsend

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER England's game plan for the five nations championship meeting with Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday, much of their focus will be directed towards Gregor Townsend. As his squad gathered in Richmond yesterday, Will Carling, the England captain, emphasised the influence: the Northampton stand-off half will have on Scotland's hopes of a grand slam.

"A lot of their game revolves around Townsend," Carling said. "He is not in the kicking mould of Craig Chalmers, he plays very flat and has made the team play in a different way. Ian Smith, on the open side flank, links with him and the others play off him very well."

The irony for Townsend, a centre with Northampton, will be opposed by his club colleague, Paul Grayson, who does wear the No 10 shirt at Northampton. Grayson and his partner, Matthew Dawson, have had a substantial input to the England preparations this week, which continued yesterday at the Bank of England ground in Roehampton.

Unusually for a Wednesday, England trained in private (allowing for the fact that a club match was in progress on an adjacent pitch), on the day details of their contracts with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) became public. Since those contracts include a clause by which players agree "not to indulge in any other professional sport or other sport, activity or practice that may endanger his fitness or ability to play international rugby", it was with some annoyance that RFU administrators heard of plans by some squad members to spend yesterday evening go-karting.

The contracts also include a code of conduct which leaves players liable to disciplinary hearings in the event of such diverse unauthorised activities as broadcasting or writing in a defamatory way of opponents or the RFU, the sale of match tickets or passes, or failing a drugs test.

The contract is player friendly," Tony Haller, the

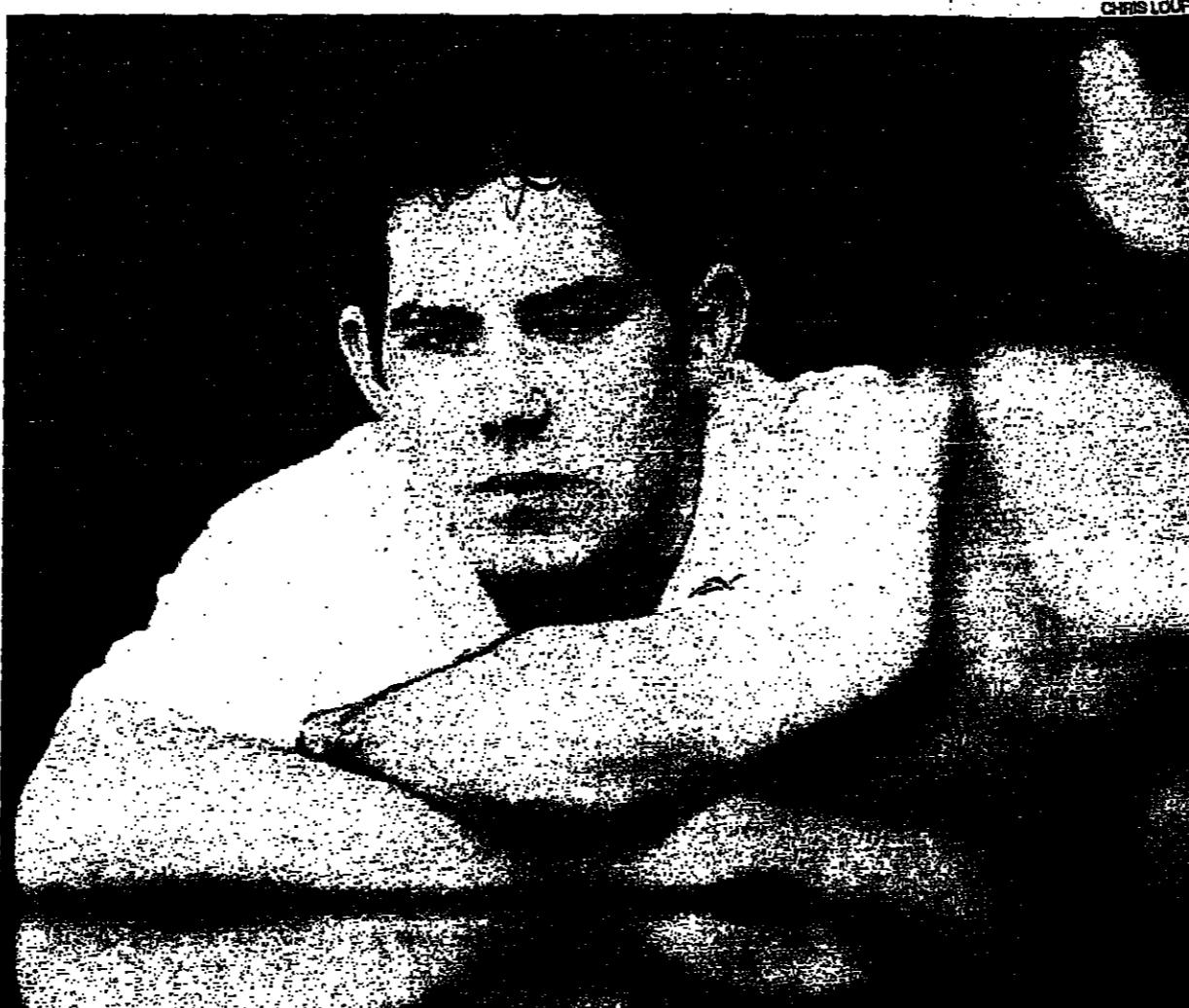
RFU secretary, said. "We are looking after them in many ways, including an attractive financial package. The players remain in constant touch with officials to ensure that changing circumstances are taken into account."

It is the commercial opportunities open to England squad players which will extend the tension between the RFU and the leading clubs, who seek primacy of contract between themselves and their players. Most clubs will not be able to offer comparable opportunities to those available to an international player, quite apart from the International Rugby Football Board regulation that gives national unions primary access to players.

This will not stop the leading clubs endeavouring to structure their own competitions, however, from which they may draw substantial financial benefit. Clubs are understood to be considering ways forward next season that could include European and Anglo-Welsh rugby at the expense of the existing Courage and Heineken leagues.

The Welsh first division clubs meet in Cardiff on Tuesday to debate the latest proposals, of which two options would mean the abolition of first division matches in Wales and England. Club administrators seek to remove the predictability of the present season in which a handful of clubs in Wales — Cardiff, Llanelli, Neath, Pontypridd and Swansea — and two in England, Bath and Leicester, tend to dominate.

Now that England's squad had money on their mind yesterday, Jack Rowell, the manager, described them as relaxed and looking forward to a match in which success offers at least the prospect of a triple crown season. "Our motivation comes from the group or it is not there at all," Rowell said. "People do ascribe amazing powers to the coach or manager. Our theme is to go to Scotland and enjoy the occasion. The Scots are clear favourites, going for famous things, and all credit to them."



Mason will be hoping his kicks for goal capture favourable winds against Wales at Lansdowne Road on Saturday

Scouser aims to be toast of Ireland

Christopher Irvine meets a student who has graduated to international rugby

A Scouse accent, as opposed to a brogue, is the giveaway to Simon Mason's birth on the wrong side of the Irish Sea. Grandparents are the passport for the Orrell full back to the Ireland side, to which the home supporters will add honorary citizenship on Saturday, should his goal kicks catch the winds at Lansdowne Road, in Dublin, and sink Wales in the five nations' championship.

For the match against Scotland last month, he was a face in the Dublin crowd. With Jim Staples concussed in Ireland's subsequent defeat by France, Mason's fast track promotion via the Irish Students and Ireland A side this season to its debut at senior level could induce pressure, but there is more Irish to Mason, 22, than meets the eye.

There is a happy-go-lucky trait to his character that probably stems from a childhood spent in Dublin. "I'm from Merseyside, but my roots are over there," Mason said. "It was always the emerald green I cheered on against England. It was never a case of me ever thinking it might be an easier option to get a cap. It's everyone's dream to play for their country, and

mine is Ireland."

"Jim's misfortune is my fortune, but he was the first person to congratulate me. His help has been invaluable. My only reservation is not to let myself or the side down, and I want to enjoy it. I know goalkicking is a big responsibility, but it's often in the lap of the Man Above to guide the ball home — I'm praying hard."

Kieran, Ellwood, Campbell, Ward — the list of prodigious Irish kickers is long and illustrious. Not that Mason feels the weight of history. His place-kicking has been generally outstanding, playing a joke on Orrell, whom he joined from Newcastle last September, while the Lancashire side's new penchant for attack has released Mason from tactical shackles and helped to place him at the forefront of

the Irish selectors' minds.

"At Orrell, we'll have a go from any part of the pitch, which has helped get me noticed. Before, I was too willing to use my feet instead of coming into the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

When news of his selection broke, Mason, a final-year student in building and surveying, thought it was Austin Healey, his Orrell teammate, playing a joke. Mason, Healey, the England Under-21 scrum half, and Robin Saverimutu, the Coventry and Ireland Under-21 scrum half, attend Leeds Metropolitan University, and have stuck together since school.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead, the trio were guided by Martin Regan, master in charge of rugby and the former Liverpool and England stand-off half. Mason was always the goalkicker. "I was the one who tried to grab the ball and kick it," he said. "When I was seven, I can remember the thrill of my first kick over the posts. Playing football helped. There's an art to it; you can kick, or you can't." In a season for Old Ainselmians, his school's affiliated club, and where his father, a lock forward was secretary, Mason doubled the previous points record. His haul of 469 points is unlikely to be bettered at the club where he still trains and which had its one player to attain international status as guest-of-honour at a dinner.

"The green shirt will go up in the clubhouse," he said. "The ladies there have always been there for me. They still wind me up at Old Ainselmians Saturday nights if I don't get the beers in."

The style emerged from the debris of defeat against Italy in January, a match that Scotland used as an experiment to develop a more fluid style. "You've got to be prepared to fake a bloody nose in search of what you are trying to achieve," Smith said. "We did and it has worked."

After a disappointing World Cup, when his only appearance was against Ivory Coast, Smith felt particularly dejected. However, having discussed his situation with his wife, he decided on "one last season" to try to secure his international place. The commitment has paid off.

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After a disappointing World Cup,

Committed
flanker
makes best
of late
acceptance

THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996

Poor attendances drive course to jumping off point

Nottingham concentrates on Flat

By JUZAN MUSCAT

AN UNWELCOME slice of history beckons at around 5.20 this afternoon when 24 horses set off around the jumps course at Nottingham for the last time. Poor attendance levels have rendered the sport unprofitable, prompting the executive to transfer its allegiance to Flat racing.

The move has been vociferously condemned within the jumping fraternity, a tightly-knit unit which regards Flat racing with the contempt reserved by Rugby League supporters for the Union code. Indeed, the analogy extends beyond traditional differences, for National Hunt enthusiasts have long considered themselves victims of discrimination in favour of the more giddy playground of the Flat.

They advance Nottingham's closure as further evidence of an ambivalence towards their sport within racing's hierarchy. Nottingham is owned by Racecourse Holdings Trust

(RHT), a subsidiary of the Jockey Club with a portfolio of 12 racecourses. Several of the Trust's employees are themselves passionate about National Hunt racing. Critics of the closure insist they should have done far more to safeguard the winter code at Nottingham.

Critics also argue that, with

the leading National Hunt trainer at Nottingham, has collected more than 2,500 signatures of protest. "We are all extremely disappointed because they have sold us down the river," he said. "RHT is totally out of order. It profits handsomely from jump racing but when we stated our case it just closed its ears. Money has now become the greater God of our sport."

Nottingham racecourse has annually harvested a small profit by offering races over the long-term viability of the smaller jumping circuits. No racecourse will ever draw large attendances when staging moderate mid-week fare, but those hosting Flat racing are less likely to suffer financial losses. National Hunt is more expensive to stage yet the maximum "fixture-incentive grant" is almost half that payable for a Flat meeting.

Hence the plethora of racecourses willing to install all-weather surfaces for use up to

three times a week. Bookmakers are exerting pressure for an increase in such fixtures, which are not vulnerable to the weather.

The negative aspect to all-weather racing is that it takes place in front of empty grandstands. Bereft, as it is, of the colour that so characterises National Hunt racing, the all-weather variety is anathema to the casual observer. It is an eyesore, if a financially profitable one for racecourses and bookmakers.

Nottingham's fate may harbour a broader message for Nottingham has never emerged from the shadow of the city's two football teams. And competition for the leisure pound has increased with the popularity of the Panthers, the local ice-hockey club.

But National Hunt racing's financial problems run deeper than that. The last jumping circuit to close was Stockton in 1981. In the present climate, it may not be another 15 years before the next casualty is forthcoming.

David Nicholson, perennially

NAP: Glenfin Princess (3.50 Nottingham)
Next best Sticky Money (5.20 Nottingham)

Cheltenham and Aintree in its ownership, RHT is heavily dependent on the popularity of jump racing for its profits. Given Nottingham's reputation as an ideal nursery venue, they maintain RHT has a moral obligation to support jumping.

David Nicholson, perennially

THUNDERER
2.00 Brazil Or Bust
3.00 Must Be Magical
3.00 Measur
3.00 Silver Standard

GOING GOOD (8AM INSPECTION)
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 CORVEDALE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II £2.249; 2m) (18 runners)

101 40-01 BRAZIL OR BUST 13 (GB) (C Water) P. Walker 6-1-2. G. McDonald 6-1-2. P. Hill 9-2.

102 0-0 MUST BE MAGICAL 12 (GB) (C Water) P. Walker 6-1-2. G. McDonald 6-1-2.

103 0-0 MEASUR 12 (GB) (C Water) J. Bradley 6-1-2. G. McDonald 6-1-2.

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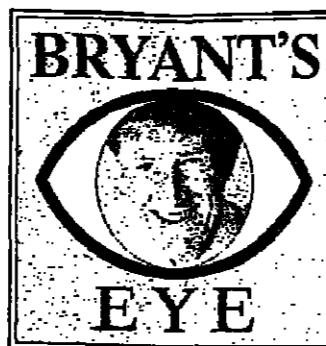
Sir Stanley turns back clock to recall better times at Yeovil

Time, as every sportsman knows, is the real opponent. Whether you are a miler, marathoner, footballer or boxer, you are out to beat the clock, the calendar, the bell, the final whistle.

It is a brave team that takes that time, but last Saturday in Yeovil, at the ground of the legendary non-league giant-killing football club, they rolled out a cast that looked as if it might outwit time itself. For a start, they had Sir Stanley Matthews. He was there not to play — though at 81 he looked quite fit enough to have a go — but to keep time firmly under control by turning on two new stadium clocks.

There too, 50 years to the day since he joined the club as Britain's youngest player-manager at the age of 28, was Alec Stock, one of the most famous figures in Yeovil's history.

It is the centenary season of the West Country club whose identity is forever linked with the romance of the FA Cup. Their tradition of giant-killing, of knocking out league clubs, began in the 1930s and their finest hour came in 1949 when a record crowd of more than 17,000 saw Alec Stock's boys take out mighty Sunderland, then of the first division, in the fourth round. In the next round, a gate of 81,565



saw Yeovil go down 8-0 to Manchester United.

The famous sloping pitch — the incline from one side to the other was as much as eight feet — became part of football's folklore as a steady catalogue of league clubs fell to Yeovil. Yeovil was dubbed the "land of slope and glory".

During the war, American troops stationed on the outskirts of the town offered to flatten out the pitch because they wanted to play baseball on it. But the West Country men were having none of that, knowing that the slope struck terror in the dressing-rooms of visiting teams. Ironically, six years ago when the old Huish ground was sold, the club moved to a fine new stadium built on the fringe of

the town where the army camp once stood.

A lot of time has passed since 1949, but at Yeovil, it seems, time doesn't do a lot of damage. Watching Sir Stanley stepping out at the new Huish on Saturday, you would have thought he had somehow side-stepped time just as magically as he used to swerve past full backs. Jauntily dressed in pullover and baseball cap, he looks whipcord fit and still moves with the lit of an athlete. He regrets he retired "too early" from football at the age of 50, and last year there was an outrageous rumour that he had signed up to make a comeback appearance in a charity match for Clevedon Town against Bristol City.

Watch Sir Stanley waltz down the stadium steps and the rumour suddenly doesn't seem outrageous at all. His eyes shine with enthusiasm as he talks football with young would-be players. "Always keep yourself fit," he urges. "Do anything to give yourself the edge. Plenty of running. It's a beautiful game. These days you'll make a lot of money. You'll make a lot more being a footballer than you will being a journalist."

Up in the executive lounge, the elegant Stock moves a little more stiffly than the uniformed army captain who first turned up at the club half a century ago, but his memories and charm are untouched by time. He gets to his feet to give his autograph. Around the walls hang mementoes of the club's (and Stock's) finest moment — framed front pages of vanished newspapers, the *Daily Sketch*, the *Sunday Graphic*, the *Sunday Pictorial*. Here is a corner of Yeovil that is forever 1949.

Stock himself has an enthusiasm for football that the years of



Sir Stanley Matthews leads a delegation of dignitaries as he switches on the two new clocks that have been installed at Yeovil Town's Huish Park stadium. Photograph: Nigel Andrews

his long career have not dimmed. His life as a manager took him from Yeovil to Orient, Arsenal, Roma, Luton, Fulham, Queens Park Rangers and Bournemouth. Back at the club where it all started, he says he is here just "to get out and watch the game".

Out on the pitch, there is yet another time-defying act to be seen. Graham Roberts — sometime of Tottenham Hotspur, Rangers, Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion and England — is the latest

player-manager at Yeovil. His hair is grey, his legs battered, his presence awesome. His date of birth sticks out in the match programme like a misprint. He is giving a decade or so to most players on the pitch, but to watch him play is to have an object lesson in how to get the better of time. He never runs out when he can walk, but he reads every move like a master.

Yeovil's opponents in the match are Bromley. Time has not got at them yet. They prance on to the

pitch with all the loose-legged enthusiasm of youth. The ground is heavy and sodden with rain. "Water never stayed on the pitch like that at Huish," growls a spectator, "rain used to run off that slope like a river."

Seven goals keep the crowd of almost 2,000 mesmerised and time goes into fast-forward. With four minutes to go, it's Yeovil 4 Bromley 3. The handsome new stadium clocks, gifts of local firms, GKN Westland and Loral Asic, mark the unforgiving minute with an accuracy that is a novelty for the Yeovil crowd.

Back in the Game of 1949, the crowd split on to the pitch two minutes before full time, mistaking the whistle for a free kick as a signal for the end of the game. Play was held up while they were marshalled back to the stands. But now time is under control and on display and the crowd whistle audibly for the end. For Bromley, time runs out and Yeovil wins.

But it's Stock who has the last word on time. "There's only one good thing about growing old," he says. "Everyone forgets that you used to lose sometimes. After a few years you only remember the games you won."

JOHN BRYANT

Europe to put Super League into new orbit

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS RUGBY league in Australia descends deeper into chaos with each day, the game in this country will continue its forward momentum today as Sky Television launches its coverage of the new \$37 million European Super League competition.

While clubs get to grips with the changes caused by the switch to a season running from March to September, they need urgent questions answered. Can lucrative end-of-season play-offs with leading Australian sides now take place? If not, what will occupy their place? Importantly, will the British game enter the courtroom battle in Sydney?

The most up-to-date answer to the last question is "probably". The Rugby Football League (RFL) is prepared for legal action in order to save the play-off and Great Britain's Australasian tour in October, but any assurances Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, can deliver on these matters at the launch in London today would need to be set against the rapidly worsening situation in Australia.

Unlike the breakaway Australian Super League, officially banned from starting tomorrow, and the establishment Australian Rugby League (ARL), which was yesterday forced to postpone its simultaneous kick-off for a fortnight, the European Super League will start on March 29, in Paris, where the home side will meet Sheffield Eagles.

The ARL had to delay the beginning of its season as the eight Super League clubs refused to join those that have remained loyal to the ARL in its 20-team competition. Instead, it has organised a series of trials and will renew its

trial period until April 15.

Ken Arthurson, the ARL chairman, said the season could be delayed further by continuing court action, as the ARL seeks more strictures to outlaw the Super League, which will next week lodge appeals against court judgments halting its inauguration. "The rebels seem unconcerned at the damage done," Arthurson said. "They don't seem concerned at the repairs the ARL is trying to implement."

Arthurson, reluctantly, is

prepared to start the ARL competition with as few as 14 teams, which would require two of the defecting clubs to return. He and John Quayle, the ARL chief executive, are in New Zealand today to try to force the Auckland Warriors, who have several pro-ARL directors, to leave the Super League.

Yesterday, however, for the second successive day, all eight rebels boycotted an emergency meeting called by the ARL. In spite of an interim injunction served on the Super League in the Federal Court in Sydney on Tuesday, members of the breakaway league are reportedly planning an unofficial series of matches this weekend.

The ARL's lawyers insisted

that any games under the Super League banner would be in contempt of court but by having players organise games, Super League clubs think they can get around the ruling. "The players' representations have said: 'No. We are not going back to the ARL,'" Paul Morgan, the chairman of Brisbane Broncos, said. "This is a push by the players. Regis, the 1989 world indoor 200 metres champion, has been unsettled by a recurrence of last winter's bad habit.



Rossweiss has opted out of the European indoor championships to concentrate on training for the Olympic Games

Big names ignore indoor challenge

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THERE are less than five months before the Olympic Games track programme begins and it showed yesterday when Great Britain announced its team for the European indoor championships in Stockholm starting a week tomorrow. Not much time between now and when we need to be racing in May.

It has long been known that Britain's famous five — Edwards, Christie, Jackson, Gunnell and Holmes — would not be going; likewise Black, Richardson, Denmark, Smith, Murray and McCollan. Yet there were still a few names left to keep the flag flying.

Yesterday, though, three more left the parade. John Regis, Tony Jarrett and Melanie Neef have ended their indoor season prematurely, with Georgia on their minds. Regis, the 1989 world indoor 200 metres champion, has been unsettled by a recurrence of last winter's bad habit.

repeated disqualification for running out of lane, while Jarrett and Neef have suffered injuries.

"We decided that going to Stockholm would be a mistake," Mike McFarlane, coach to Regis and Jarrett, said. "It would be the second half of March before we were training for the Olympics. There is not much time between now and when we need to be racing in May."

For Michael Rossweiss, three times a European medal-winner at 60 metres, Stockholm has been spurned as he attempts to get his summer right. Rossweiss has failed repeatedly to transfer his indoor form to the 100 metres.

Olympic year is the time to change. "I want to do it the other way round this time," Rossweiss said. In the past, he has sacrificed training for racing but his relatively poor indoor form this winter is explained by his heavier training programme.

The past three European indoor men's

60 metres champions have been British, so it will be up to Jason Gardener and Jason John to try to keep the sequence moving. Duaine Ladejo, in the 400 metres, looks Britain's safest bet for gold. Ladejo and Dalton Grant, named for the pole vault, were winners at the last European indoor championships. Ashia Hansen, in the triple jump, is Britain's only other potential winner.

With Edwards et al missing, the team is less a who's who of British athletics than a who will be or who was: Gardener and Guy Bullock are 20, Mark Hylton and Marlon Devonish 19. In contrast, Judy Okes is on course for a record 75th appearance for Great Britain.

BRITAIN TEAM: Men: 60 metres: J. Gardener, J. John K. Wearn, 200 metres: D. Turner, A. Condon, M. Devonish, 400 metres: D. Ladejo, G. Bullock, M. Hyton, Jaseen K. Lewis, 800 metres: D. Grant, 110m hurdles: J. Gardener, 100m: D. Ladejo, High jump: D. Grant, Triple jump: F. Adeagboye, Pole vault: N. Buddle, Shot: S. Polkinghorne, M. Proctor, Hammer: J. Gardener, Discus: J. John K. Wearn, J. Okes, Javelin: J. Gardener, Long jump: D. Lewis, Triple jump: M. Griffiths, A. Hansen, Pole vault: K. Staples, Shot: J. Okes

No news is good news for contented Faldo

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MIAMI

NICK FALDO is a happy man. He is here in sunny Florida to defend the Doral Ryder Open golf title that he won in spectacular fashion last year and his appearances in the tabloids are, he hopes, being limited to the sports pages.

Yesterday, on the eve of the tournament, Faldo spoke of the "month of hell" courtesy of the British tabloids that he and his family suffered last year when he left Gill, his wife of ten years, and three children for Brenna Cepelak, a student from Arizona.

"I knew it was going to screw me up for a while," Faldo said, "but you keep going and just carry on the best you can. Now, it's old news, old hat, no news and someone else is suffering."

They go through trash cans, listen on phone calls, there are lenses 300 yards away, watching you, waiting for the picture they want and they follow you, just waiting

for you to do one stupid thing. It's the inanity of it all. They sat outside the house for Gill and the children for a month. Brenna had two weeks of it. One guy left 27 consecutive messages on the answering machine. It's a weird way to treat another human being.

So far this year, however, there has just been golf, much of it good, and this week marks the start of the run-up to the Masters at Augusta in April. Some of the world's best are here to challenge Faldo, who last year hit a memorable no-margin-for-error three-wood 230 yards over water to the last green and ended up by beating Greg Norman and Peter Jacobsen by a shot.

Faldo, the world No 1 and winner here twice, is back, along with Nick Price, Ernie Els, Bernhard Langer, Corey Pavin, Fred Couples, John Daly, Phil Mickelson and Michael Campbell, plus Sandy Lyle.

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World tour returns to European roots

FROM MEL WEBB IN TARRAGONA

THE PGA European Tour is five weeks into the 1996 golf season and, glory be, it has actually turned up in Europe. The tour has been stealing like cuckoos into other birds' nests all over the planet in that time and is something of a relief that it has at last arrived on sovereign territory. The stage is set for the Catalán Open. There is not a great deal of money on offer — the £300,000 is definitely on the lower end of European Tour prize funds — and paucity of pounds, pence and pesetas is reflected in the strength of the field. There are but three men here who played in the European team's remarkable victory over the United States in the Ryder Cup at Rochester, New York State, last autumn, but Mark James, David Gilford and Philip Walton all had small tales to tell yesterday.

James, the world No 1 and winner here twice, is back, along with Nick Price, Ernie Els, Bernhard Langer, Corey Pavin, Fred Couples, John Daly, Phil Mickelson and Michael Campbell, plus Sandy Lyle.

singles matches at Oak Hill and Walton and Walton the putt that completed the victory. Walton, who defends his title here, was disqualified for playing his amateur partner's ball in Sun City three weeks ago and missed the cut in the South African PGA Championship in Johannesburg the next week. "I shouldn't have played, I wasn't ready," he said. "This is the real start."

James goes into the tournament having not the slightest idea how he will play. He hit his first balls of the season last Thursday in two inches of snow at Ilkley and retired hastily back to the fireside no wiser. "All I can do is hold the club at the rubbery end and hope," he said.

Gilford, the quietest of quiet men, claims he is as rusty as the rest, but take no notice. He is one of Europe's most renowned early-season form horses and will need some watching this week.

All three men won their

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FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated.
CIS LEAGUE: Second division: Bracknell v Croydon. Third division: Epsom v Tunbridge Wells.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools: Full Fours Trophy: Cheltenham & Gloucester v Bristol (Match Day 2); Walsall & Stourbridge v Birmingham (Match Day 3). English Under-16 trophy: Luton & Luton Town v Watford (Match Day 1); Luton & Luton Town v Watford (Match Day 2).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Bury v Port Vale (Match Day 1); Shrewsbury Town v Walsall (Match Day 2).

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Cheltenham/Midlands: Buxton v Cheltenham (Match Day 1); Cheltenham/Midlands: Buxton v Cheltenham (Match Day 2).

JENSON'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury v Chesterfield (Match Day 1); Chesterfield v Bury (Match Day 2). Division Two: Walsall v Chesterfield (Match Day 1); Chesterfield v Walsall (Match Day 2).

OTHER SPORT:

NETBALL: LTA men's, ladies' and youth tournaments. (Contact: LTA, 100 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6AU.)

ROWING: BUCS: Four-round replay: Newbury v Trowbridge.

SCULLERS MATCHES: English Schools: Full Fours Trophy: Cheltenham & Gloucester v Bristol (Match Day 2); Walsall & Stourbridge v Birmingham (Match Day 3).

WATER POLO: Woodstock v Luton (Match Day 1); Luton v Woodstock (Match Day 2).

LAWNS: LTA men's, ladies' and youth tournaments. (Contact: LTA, 100 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6AU.)

MINI-GOLF: BUCS: Four-round replay: Totton v Bath.

SWIMMING: CIS: Four-round replay: Totton v Bath.

</

Australia throw down thrilling challenge

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON
IN PUNE

THE Australians were happy men yesterday, buoyed by their outstanding performance in Bombay the previous night when they had given India, and everybody else, something to think about. It will take a very good side to prevent them winning the cricket World Cup, so settled are they, and so strong in all areas.

It seems almost unnatural that as fine a player as Michael Slater cannot make the team. What would England give for a batsman of his class? About £1 million. Dean Jones and Tom Moody, other batsmen England could do with, are not even here, and Craig McDermott is on the

way home with a calf strain. Yet Australia march on regardless.

The choice of Jason Gillespie as McDermott's replacement reveals an awful lot about the Australian way. Whereas England habitually revert to players they are familiar with, Australia always back younger men who have shown promise. Steve Waugh said yesterday he had never even met Gillespie.

The newcomer is not expected to play much of a part in the competition. Damien Fleming, who came into the team on Tuesday night, underlined their depth of talent by taking five Indian wickets, including three important ones at the top of the order. Mark Taylor used seven bowlers in Bombay and got good

value from each. There is an enviable purpose about their cricket. Even when Tendulkar was collaring the bowling, they never lost their "shape" in the field, although if he had survived another five overs it would have been interesting.

These are self-sufficient cricketers who do not have to have everything cut up into bite-sized chunks for them to digest. They are picked for their skills and allowed to develop them. Again, England could learn a lot by absorbing this.

The beauty of having a settled, confident side is that a young all-rounder such as Shane Lee can come in and not feel out of place despite contributing next to nothing with the bat and bowling three expensive

overs. Lee will probably make way for Paul Reiffel when the bowler recovers from a pulled hamstring.

Steve Waugh, who has played nearly 200 one-day internationals, considers Tuesday's game as good as any. What gave the match its distinction was that it was proper cricket, with a series of gripping encounters between players of high talent. When Tendulkar and Waugh joined battle, there was almost an audible intake of breath, and the participants did not disappoint.

Waugh was superb. After Tendulkar flat-batted his first ball to the boundary, to reach 50, and took ten runs off the over, the leg spinner bowled nine more overs for 18 runs: an outstanding effort. However upset

he was by the prospect of going to Sri Lanka, he is evidently enjoying his cricket here, and exchanged hearty mutual congratulations with Tendulkar after the match.

Taylor stationed himself at slip when Waugh returned in the final stages of the Indian innings, and it worked a treat. Mongin nicking a ball to the Australian captain. It was imaginative leadership, typical of a man who shuffled his pack of bowlers splendidly and gave them excellent fields. The standard of fielding, it should not go without saying, was superlative.

There is time for Australia to slip up, of course, but they have established the benchmark for this tournament and everyone else has noticed.

Edgbaston next stop for a young Test player of unlimited potential

Fast bowler following in father's footsteps

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent,
meets a young South African

He believes is bound for greatness

WORLD CUP 1996



A moment for reflection for Pollock, whose achievements this winter have far outstripped his ambition

that, on that pivotal day in the development of one who will soon rank among the most influential cricketers in the world, Pollock decided he had to strike first to scatter the easy assumptions that had been made about him.

So hit Michael Atherton on the head. Three times. The respect of everyone present, playing and watching, was thus guaranteed. Some take years to be acknowledged as a Test cricketer. Pollock took a single day.

Since then, he has seldom been far from admiring attention and now, in Pakistan, he has two things on his mind — helping South Africa to win the World Cup, in which they meet the holders, Pakistan, in Karachi today, and joining the

county champions, Warwickshire, in succession to Brian Lara and Allan Donald.

Of course, he has apprehensions, not least that something must go wrong for him soon. And yet if you seek the epitome of the self-possessed young sportsman, one highly unlikely to join the ranks of the spoilt, surly and arrogant, then Pollock is your man.

He recalled the importance of that day when Atherton's blue helmet was given a rare battering and when his wide eyes and dancing feet told of his sudden regard for a new opponent. "In hindsight, it was a good thing that I hit him," Pollock said. "Not to hurt but to prove a point. I had heard they were going to target me as the youngster so it was important I earned some respect pretty quick."

What Pollock had proved was that he was not just a pretty face, nor a beneficiary of nepotism, but a bowler of pedigree. He may not look or sound nasty but, plainly, he could be hostile. Atherton believes he never bowed as fast in the series after that first day, but it did not matter. The point had been made that he was not to be underestimated, particularly not in Cape Town, where his match figures in the decisive final Test were seven for 58.

Any doubt that he could translate his talent to limited-overs cricket was dispelled four days later, back at Newlands. Pollock scored 60 not out and took four for 34, pitching England towards the first of their six one-day defeats and ensuring his role in this World Cup. "That was the best week of my life," he beamed. But quickly, true to character, he added the caveat,

"I don't get too carried away. At the start of our season my aim was just to get a game in the South African side, so I do feel up in the clouds. But I'm constantly aware that old mother cricket will come back to get me. My family has instilled that in me and it is a good safety valve."

His family, of course, knows about such things. His father, Peter, was South Africa's opening bowler in 28 Tests during the 1960s and his uncle, Graeme, was one of the finest batsmen in the world. Both would have been part of the South Africa side that might, politics apart, have dominated world cricket through the 1970s, so coping with disappointment comes naturally to them.

Pollock wants to be thought of as an all-rounder, but does not claim to be one just yet. Sensibly, he is seeking broad

experience, which is why he will play a season with Warwickshire, having first turned down Hampshire and Surrey. "I've got a bit to follow there," he said, puffing out his cheeks, "and the schedule of a county season is a bit of an unknown factor. But I'll have Allan (Donald) there as my coach and that will be very important."

In the meantime, there is unfinished business in the sub-continent for this non-drinking, non-smoking paragon to whom sport comes second only to his Christian religion.

"It has been an amazing year for South African sport," he said. "I just hope it doesn't end before this World Cup does."

GROUP A
P W T L N R N P
Sri Lanka ... 3 2 0 0 0 0 6
India ... 3 2 0 0 1 0 4
Australia ... 3 2 0 0 2 0 2
West Indies ... 3 1 0 0 2 0 2
Zimbabwe ... 3 0 0 0 3 0 0

RESULTS: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wickets; India beat Kenya by 7 wickets; Cuttack, Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 6 wickets; Colombo, India beat Australia by 5 wickets; Galle, Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 5 wickets; Madras, India beat West Indies by 5 wickets; Bangalore, India beat Zimbabwe by 16 runs; Bombay, Zimbabwe beat India by 5 wickets.

FIXTURES: Today, Kenya v West Indies, Pune; Tomorrow, Australia v Zimbabwe, Nairobi; Mar 12, India v Sri Lanka, Delhi; Mar 14, India v West Indies, Australia, Jaipur; Mar 16, India v Zimbabwe, Bangalore; Mar 18, Sri Lanka v Kenya, Kandy

GROUP B
P W T L N R N P

South Africa ... 3 3 0 0 0 0 6
New Zealand ... 4 3 0 0 1 0 6
Pakistan ... 2 2 0 0 0 0 6
England ... 3 0 0 0 3 0 6
Holland ... 3 0 0 0 3 0 6
UAE ... 4 0 0 0 4 0 0

RESULTS: West Zealand beat England by 11 runs; Ahmedabad, South Africa beat UAE by 18 runs; Rawalpindi, New Zealand by 19 runs; Lahore, Pakistan beat England by 19 runs; Lahore, Pakistan beat UAE by 19 runs; Peshawar, South Africa beat New Zealand by 19 runs; Peshawar, England beat UAE by 19 runs; Lahore, Pakistan beat Pakistan by 19 runs; Lahore, Pakistan beat UAE by 19 runs; Lahore, New Zealand beat UAE by 19 runs; Peshawar, New Zealand beat UAE by 19 runs.

FIXTURES: Today, Pakistan v South Africa, Karachi; Tomorrow, Holland v UAE, Lahore; Mar 11, Pakistan v England, Lahore; Mar 13, New Zealand v South Africa, Rawalpindi; Mar 15, Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore

QUARTER-FINALS: Mar 16, Warner group A v 4th group B, Faisalabad, Mar 17, 3rd group A v 4th group B, Bangalore, Mar 18, Warner group B v 4th group A, Karachi Mar 19, 3rd group B v 4th group A, Madras

SEMI-FINALS: Mar 13, Faisalabad, Mar 14, Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chidambaram; Mar 15, Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chidambaram

FINAL: Mar 17, Lahore

The grin and the sorrow

Grimming from Ear to Ear, Radio 4, 7.30pm.

Nana - Auto-Awakye's charting of black actors' progress in Hollywood in the inter-war years could easily have been fuelled by anger. For the most part, however, their story is told by Clarke Peters) with sorrow born of regret. Black actors worked in an ethnically hostile world. Few escaped stereotyping. They were the peripheral characters who rolled their eyes in bright, lachrymose manservants; maids who did not know which end of the telephone to speak into; contented slaves. They were meant to be laughed at, not empathised with. A few smashed the Uncle Tom mould and made film history. This long overdue documentary salutes their achievements.

Stranger than Fiction, Radio 4, 8.45pm.

Last year's experiment of inviting writers to comment on the Gospel accounts of the Passion is being repeated. Six writers, believers and sceptics, contribute to this second series, starting tonight with Allan Massie. His theme is fascinatingly speculative: Is the Gospel of St John the work of an eyewitness, or an author — and was the author John or someone else? Whoever it was, Massie argues, he was a masterly artist, for he diverts our attention away from Judas and turns the spotlight on Christ alone. Only a true artist, he says, could have depicted a Christ as real as Shakespeare's Hamlet or Tolstoy's Pierre Bezukov.

Peter Davall

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.00 Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Liza Arson Ind 12.30-12.45 Newsbeat 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Music Roundup 4.30-5.00 6.00-7.00 Every Session 8.00 Hi-Pondo 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Mid-night Club Stargaze 12.15 The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy, Ind 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Peacock for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce Ind at 10.00 Pick of the Mix 11.30 Ed Doctor 2.00pm Double Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 4.00 The Big 7.30 Late Night Show 8.15 The First of a New Day 9.00 Late Night 9.30 Late Night 10.00 Radio 2 11.30 Shared Experience 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Steve Madden Ind at 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, Ind 6.55, 7.55 Racing preview 8.30 The Magazine, Ind 8.45-9.00 The Saturday Show 11.00 Midweek 11.30-12.30 Sports 12.00 Midweek with Mel Ind 12.34pm Monochrome 1.15 Entertainment News 2.00 Runcorn in Five, Ind 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 3.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News 9.45 Entertainment News 10.00 News On The Box 10.30 News 11.00 News on Top 10.30 News 11.30 News 12.00 News 12.30-12.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newsdesk 3.00 Focus 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Gruttmann 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Suzanne Simons 2.00pm Concerto, Rubbra (Concerto in A, River Gobion); Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Vernon Handley 4.00 John Jarvie 5.00 Concerto in D major 6.00 Sir John Barbirolli 7.00 Soloist 7.30 Travel 8.00 Folk 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newsbeat 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain 9.30 Merlin 10.00 Newsdesk 10.20 World 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Network 11.45 Health 12.00 Newsdesk 12.20-12.30 On the Box 12.30 British 12.45 News 1.10 Monday 1.15 Classics 1.45 Concerto 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Drama 3.00 Sports 3.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Focus 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon 6.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dane 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air: Haydn (Symphony No 69 in C); Danzi (Fantasia); Haydn (Fantasy Hobo); Haydn (Variations on a theme of Haydn); Haydn (Concerto in A, River Gobion); Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Vernon Handley 7.00 John Jarvie 8.00 Concerto in Three (Fantasies, Op 18); Mathias (Clarinet Concerto)

7.30 Mozart and Bruckner. Live from the Barbican in London 8.00 Dillian Vassallo, violin, Yuri Bashmet, violoncello, LSO under Colin Davis performing Mozart (Sinfonia Concertante in E flat); 8.25 Bruckner (Symphony No 7 in E)

9.45 Cultural Baggage, Staircase 10.05 Ensemble Clément (Jappetin performs Dulay (O bare Sylph) 10.30 Supremum est mortalis bonum; Pierre de la Rue (Mass, L'Homme armé)

10.45 Night Wives change the tradition of women proposing to men on February 29 11.30-12.00 The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra 12.00-12.45 Night School, Treasure Island 1.30 Spanish 16-18 2.10 Poetry of Passion

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News 6.25 Farming 6.30 Farming Today 6.35 Pioneers for the Day 6.30 Today 6.55 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.00 Sunday in Parliament 8.25 Weather 9.00 News 9.25 The Moral Maze 10.00-10.30 Women: A Little of What You Fancy (FM), David Jason's dramatisation of the novel by P. G. Wodehouse (2/6) 10.00 Dame Edna Everage (LW only) 10.17 This Scamp's Isle (LW only) 10.30 Women's Hour 11.30 From Our Own Correspondents 12.00 Weather and You 12.25 The British Film Studio (2/6) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News, How to Murder Your Husband, FG begins to have homicide thoughts when she discovers her husband is to retire early (1) 3.00 News; This Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Allen sees The Archivist at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh 4.45 Short Story: Toads, by Isabel Allende (r)

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1 1. FM 97.5-98.8, **RADIO 2**, FM 88.0-92.2, **RADIO 3**, FM 90.2-92.4, **RADIO 4**, FM 92.4-94.8; LW 125-145, MW 120-140, SW 140-155, **WORLD SERVICE**, MW 645-1005, LW 105.8; MW 1197-1215, **CLASSIC FM**, FM 100-102, **VIRGIN RADIO**, FM 105.8; MW 1197-1215, **TALK RADIO UK**, MW 1033, 1089; **TELEVISION** Rosemary Smith and Susan Thompson, **ROBESON**

Why off spinners are not getting the breaks

Simon Wilde's
WORLD CUP EXTRAS

The prize-money should definitely be higher," Simpson said. "It's been hovering at the current levels for some time. The winners will get £30,000. That's not much, is it? Even middle-level golf or tennis tournaments offer a bigger purse to the winners and those are competitions in an individual sport. From the profit figures one hears, the players should be getting more money."

In which case, why did Australia agree — along with the other Test-playing countries — to the levels of prize-

money put before them at the International Cricket Council's annual meeting last July? For one, it seems, Pilcom, the organising committee, comes up smelling of roses.

Final option
The World Cup final in Lahore may or may not be a night match. Arif Abbasi, the chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board, has said that, if the Government cannot guarantee an uninterrupted electricity supply to the Gaddafi Stadium, the final will be switched to a day match. "We cannot risk a final where the lights go off," he said.

Kenya's honour
Kenya are very excited about their match in Puna today. "West Indies have always been our favourite cricketers," Maurice Odumbe, the Kenya captain, said yesterday. "It's an honour to play with them. We try to play like them, aggressive and entertaining at the same time. The boys will learn a lot." Odumbe also hopes to get Brian Lara's autograph. The last time he asked, in Swanscombe several years ago, Lara refused.

Under attack

The only job worse than captaining England is captaining West Indies. Richie Richardson has now lost the support of Vic Richards, his one-time mentor. "Richie Richardson seems to have allowed things to deteriorate, and people have started taking advantage," Richards said in the *Times of India*. Brian Lara, he added, has "everything in the making to be a good captain... he has got a wonderful knowledge of the game."

On cliché safari with Crocodile Chalmers

Hang on — I'll be with you in a minute. Just wrestling with one of those fiendish teasers that travel programmes have taken to coming up with. What, that nice Judith Chalmers wants to know, is the capital of Poland?

Is it a) Warsaw, which happens to be where John Carter spent his allotted seven minutes of *Wish You Were Here* (ITV) last night or b) Krakow, where he didn't go at all? Blown if I know, but we've got until Tuesday to find out. There is a £10,000 holiday of a lifetime at stake, so if somebody out there knows the answer I really would be extremely grateful.

Good, glad we have got that sorted out. It means we can get on with our central theme. Last night, was definitely, indisputably, categorically Africa night. Chalmers was in The Gambia, Robert Elms was in Ethiopia for Channel 4, as was — by one of those spooky

television coincidences — a film unit for the BBC2 series, *Under the Sun*. I now know quite a lot about Ethiopia. Go on, ask me what the capital is.

I already knew a little bit about The Gambia, partly through having been there (long, long ago in the days when its capital, Banjul, was still called Bathurst) and partly through having watched far too many documentaries about what British women of a certain age get up to with local males of a much younger age. A Chalmers-eye view of the "beach boy phenomenon" promised to be interesting.

In particular, I was hoping for one of her briskly delivered fact sheets — a week's best and bawd with a three star, 25-year-old starts from £399 in low season, drinks, meals and impulsive presents excluded". But frisky fact sheet came there none. She may have been tempted by the well-muscled

charms of the chaps playing beach Frisbee behind her — "it is easy just to flop out in the hotel grounds..." but she had her reputation as a senior travel writer to think of.

"Another thing to do," she continued brightly, "is go out and explore Africa." Which, with just a hint of a wistful backward glance, she did. Coming face to face with the Third World, she calls it.

She went to the local market ("primitive and colourful"), she went on the £29 all-in *Roots* excursion to the ancestral home of Alex Haley and gamely she shook hands/claws with an improbably docile crocodile. As those famously tanned features posed for pictures with the unconscious croc, a ghoulish thought presented itself. Which one would make the better handbag?

But at least Chalmers made The Gambia sound as if it might be

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

fun. Elms, by contrast, kicked *Tavelog* (Channel 4) off with the sort of "I had a farm in Asafiria" melodrama that, but for my professional duties, would have had me scrabbling for the off-button.

"Desolation, desperation, despair," he droned drearily, "and following a biblical famine..."

"...no, don't tell me, let me guess, yup

"...death." He went on. "The words Ethiopia now evokes..."

All begin with D? Are likely to send you screaming to South Africa? ... are all potently tragic, yet Ethiopia was once the word for all Africa, the most glorified and learned land in an endless continent? Well, at least the alliteration had dried up.

Now, Elms often makes a decent travel guide. On Spain and things Spanish he is excellent and he is as good as the next cheeky-chappie at doing those what-a-nice-you-like-me-doing-in-a-place-like-this pieces straight to camera. But get him home, lock him in a darkened room with pen and paper and ask him to write what he did on his holidays and he produces the most terrible, meaningless drivel.

No sooner had he left Addis Ababa (a capital, I suppose, always likely to encourage alienation) than he was at it again. "I loved Härar," (which inevitably was also home to the Hyena Men) "a shabby, scurilous, grimy and

groovy little city." That delivered. He was off in search of "myths and mysteries" which was definitely pushing his luck.

Whatever had unhinged Elms seemed to have happened in Lalibela, the increasingly well known site of 12 churches apparently hewn out of rock. From the moment he got there, still clutching the umbrella which he had rightly identified as Ethiopia's must-have for the season, he was "rocked back, plagued by questions of how and why".

Nowhere else had he been in the world, he told us, had prompted "the conflict and tumult of emotion" he was feeling here. "I have felt a wonderment, and there is no other word than wonderment, that came from deep within." At that moment I too felt something coming from deep within and it wasn't wonderment. I switched over just in time.

I found myself still in Ethiopia and still watching a man with an umbrella en route to a spiritual experience. This was *The Pilgrim's Gift*, the last, in the enjoyable *Under the Sun* (BBC2) series.

Haji Ahmed, I was relieved to discover, was not going to Lalibela but was making his annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Sheikh Hussein, the man who had introduced Islam to the region some 700 hundred years ago and whose miracles still come highly regarded.

Haji and his middle wife, Hajo (thank goodness Elms wasn't around), provided good company on their journey through the spectacularly beautiful highlands. When this sprightly 70-year-old wasn't chewing the fat with his mates, he was teasing his toothless wife for lagging behind. "What can I do?" she slurred philosophically. "He has the horse." Not to mention the umbrella.

6.00am Business Breakfast (51356)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (31707)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (441823) 9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (674296) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (81233) 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (533353) 12.05pm Turnabout (s) (584471) 12.30 Going for a Song (s) (29875)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (34849)

1.30 Regional News and weather (7777504)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (347559) 2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (903352) 2.40 The Flying Doctors (Ceefax) (s) (451341)

3.30 The New York Bear Show (s) (732207)

3.35 The Morph Files (s) (718337)

3.45 Dimobots (s) (724434) 4.10 Highlander (Ceefax) (s) (6259633)

4.35 **CHOOSE The Web.** Virtual reality programme presented by Michaela Strachan (Ceefax) (s) (3117356)

5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (4047950) 5.10 Grange Hill (Ceefax) (s) (1061078)

5.35 Neighbours (f) (Ceefax) (s) (75492)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (146)

6.30 Regional News magazines (726)

7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (2613)

7.30 EastEnders. Roy is faced with an uninvited guest in his party while Pat falls apart (Ceefax) (s) (610)

8.00 **Rebel Allen Empire.** Battle Zone (Ceefax) (s) (62233)

8.30 The Detectives. The dim-witted duo manage to murder the last remaining female Gorgopos white-lipped turtle on earth. With Martin Carrott and Robert Powell (Ceefax) (s) (7293)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2897)

9.30 **French and Saunders.** With Down French and Jennifer Saunders (Ceefax) (s) (49632)

10.00 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Jill Cottrell team up with the police to try to solve crimes with viewers help (Ceefax) (s) (140165)

11.00 Question Time. Topical debate from Norwich. Tonight's panellists consists of Dr Bridget Ogilvie of the Welcome Trust and MPs Ann Widdecombe, David Blunkett and Archy Kirkwood (Ceefax) (884879)

N.I.: 10.50 Spotlight 11.20 Question Time 12.20am *Crimewatch* UK Update 12.30 FILM: A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square 2.15 *Weather WALES* 10.50 *The State* (5417) 11.20 *Question Time* (722267) 12.20am *Crimewatch UK Update* (6443517) 12.30 FILM: Jake Speed (s) (627246) 2.10 *News and weather* (633739)

11.50 **Crimewatch UK Update** (Ceefax) (s) (173349)

12.00 FILM: Jake Speed (1986) with Wayne Crawford and John Hurt. Dashing hero Jake Speed steps out of the pages of his partner's novels to offer his services when a young woman is abducted by a white-slave trader. Directed by Andrew Lane (Ceefax) (s) (230356)

1.40pm Weather (251325)

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6.00am Open University: Materials (2309981) 6.25 Caring for Materials (235788) 6.50 Maths Models and Methods (5413542)

7.15 See Hear News (2861010)

7.30 Stingray (f) (Ceefax) (45900) 8.00 Blue Peter (f) (Teletext) (5230225) 8.20 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (4934320)

8.30 Open a Door (s) (530394) 8.40 The Record (s) (359243)

9.05 Daytime on Two: Science (s) (5383707)

9.30 Lemexpress (875535) 9.45 Over the Moon (3925368) 10.00 *Playtime* (5867078) 10.20 Storytime (8810436)

10.45 Experimenter (s) (7755707) 11.05 Space Ark (892707) 11.15 In Living Memory (3705287) 12.00 Landmarks (5621201) 12.15 *Curiosity* (5005510) 12.30 Working Lunch (74717) 1.00 *Uisceach* (8400578) 1.25 Technology (37950417) 1.40 Numeracy (3475323)

2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (f) (1028659) 2.25 Open a Door (f) (1034561) 2.10 *The Andrew Neil Show* (s) (5578900)

3.00 News (Ceefax) (2393165) 3.05 Westminster (Ceefax) (s) (4190788)

3.35 News (Ceefax) (718325) 4.00 Today's the Day (s) (639) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (523) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7601810) 5.40 Sky at Night (f) (Ceefax) (s) (3924)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Ceefax) (s) (125639)

6.45 They Who Dare (s) (722184)

7.00 Wedding for God (f) (Ceefax) (s) (6405)

7.30 First Sight. Is Britain a safe haven for children seeking asylum? (252) N.L.: 7.30 Now You're Talking (239691) 7.55 Our Roving Report (644552) 8.00-8.30 Personal Visions (6875) WALES: 7.30 Dad's Army EAST: 7.30 Mater of Fact MIDLANDS: 7.30 Midlands Report NORTH: 7.30 North East, NORTH WEST: 7.30; Close Up: SOUTH EAST: 7.30; Southern Eye, SOUTH WEST: 7.30; Down French and Jennifer Saunders (Ceefax) (s) (49632)

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Comedy with Eric Sykes (10.00pm)

10.00 Sykes: Dream (f), Followed by Women on Men (90975)

10.30 Newsworld (828691) 11.55 Late Review (s) (792692) 11.55 Weather (608894)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (32333)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

Dave Wallace in training (8.30pm)

8.00 Three Colours Cézanne. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

8.30 Top Gear (Ceefax) (s) (8610)

9.00 Shooting Blanks. Male Infertility (Ceefax) (718897)

9.40 The Male Survival Guide. The last of the series looks at common sexual diseases (Ceefax) (563184)

9.50 The Travel Show Essential Guide (f) (s) (738707)

10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (50929)

10.30 HTV News and weather (78624)

10.40 Getaway. Holiday destinations from around the West Country region. Including the Caron Bay Hotel, Brittany, sailing in Poole and a postcard from Calgary, Canada (666900)

11.10 On the Line. Live discussion on topical matters (93504)

11.40 Prisoner Cell Block (151691)

12.35 Carnal Knowledge (3681388)

1.35 Not Fade Away (s) (4525587)

2.35 Shift (6777410)

3.30 The Story of Steam (f) (8623197)

4.15 Music Box Profile (86549623)

4.30 The Time ... the

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SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996

JVC concerned at escalating costs

Sponsor may pull plug on Arsenal deal

By RUSSELL KEMPSON AND PETER BALL

ARSENAL are in danger of losing their sponsorship deal with JVC, the electronics company. It is the longest-running such agreement in football, having lasted 13 years, but it is up for renewal at the end of this season. The Japanese company is reconsidering its position because of escalating costs.

However, JVC admitted yesterday that the adverse publicity attracted by the club over the past year could prove a factor in its final decision. Paul Merson, the midfield player, had to undergo rehabilitation for drink, drugs and gambling problems and George Graham was sacked as Arsenal manager 12 months ago after being found guilty by the Football Association of transfer irregularities.

"Negotiations are still continuing," Mike Whyman, the JVC publicity manager, said yesterday. "It is not true to say that we have made any decision yet. If we were to discontinue our relationship with Arsenal, then obviously matters have to be resolved quickly. That would give them time to talk to other people."

"Cost is the main criterion here. Marketing budgets do go up but not as fast as the media costs for us. Of course, there are other considerations, the Merson and Graham matters among them, but they are not major issues."

The Arsenal sponsorship is JVC's biggest in Britain and has rolled over in a series of

contracts — the initial one for a year, the subsequent four in three-year periods. The firm's parent company, based in Tokyo, is one of the leading financial backers of Euro '96, the European championship finals to be staged in England during the summer.

"Each time you renegotiate,

the customer is going to ask for more money," Whyman said. "You have to take into account the positives and the negatives and, overall, we have been very pleased with

Tranmere Rovers yesterday jumped to the head of the queue of clubs hoping to sign Ian Rush when the Liverpool striker leaves Anfield at the end of the season. Tranmere, of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, is only few miles from Rush's home on The Wirral.

the partnership." Arsenal have received about £11 million from the company over the 13 years.

Since the formation of the FA Premier League in 1992, sponsors have been attracted in increasing numbers. The present television deal with BSkyB, BBC and overseas rights is worth £305 million over a five-year period. This season, each club will receive £878,725 from television fees.

Carling, the drinks firm, is investing £3 million per season over four years and there

Middlesbrough's involvement with South America increased yesterday when Bruno, the Brazil full back, arrived on Teesside to join Juninho in the FA Carling Premiership. Bruno will train today and hopes to make his debut for his new club against Everton on Saturday.

While a South American arrives, a South African departs. Mark Fish's move to Manchester United fell through, and the central defender has instead decided to join Lazio.

The Denmark international, Erik Bo Andersen, is expected to undergo a medical examination in Glasgow today before signing for Rangers. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, was in Denmark yesterday and is reported to have finalised a £1.2 million deal for the Aalborg striker.

Tyson ignores fighting talk from Bruno



Frank Bruno, ignoring the lingering menace of Mike Tyson, yesterday served notice that he would not be a lamb to the slaughter when he defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight title next month. Armed by the actions of Tyson's entourage during their first pre-fight news conference together, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Bruno questioned whether Tyson learnt anything while serving a 3½ year prison sentence for rape. I

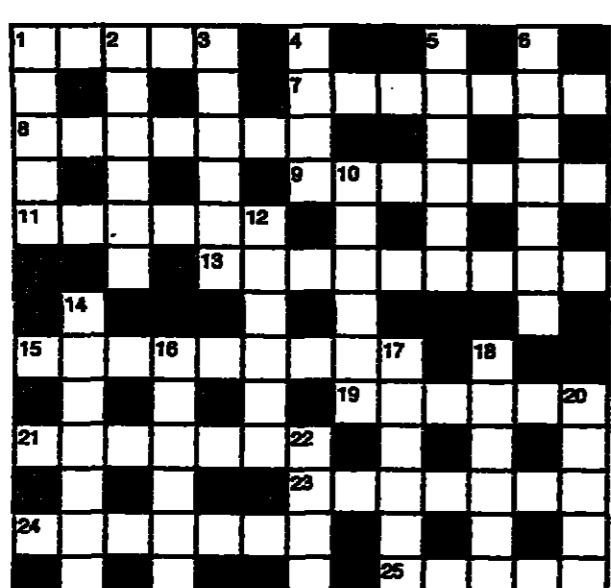
thought prison was supposed to wise you up and make you a better man," Bruno said. "He's getting worse, to be honest, both in the ring and out of the ring." He refrained from getting involved in a shouting match with the entourage, but later criticised Tyson for the actions of his supporters. "The way these people go on is not good for boxing," Bruno said. "I'm here to bring a little class to the sport." He brought his title belt with him,

taking it out of a bag and placing it in front of him. With a £4 million purse awaiting him, he was quick to draw attention to the challenger's £20 million pay cheque. "I'm not a greedy man, but Tyson is getting 16 to 20 times more than I'm getting," Bruno said. "Would you be happy if you were the champion and were being treated like the challenger?" Bruno was the only one doing much talking, with Tyson making little or no effort to answer even the most

basic questions before bringing the news conference to an abrupt close. "I'm just confident in what I'm capable of doing," was a typically brusque response from the former champion. The only time he came close to revealing any of his thoughts about the fight was when he predicted he would beat Bruno. "It's interesting Mr Bruno is talking very brave and courageous," he said. "We'll see."

Photograph: Lennox McLendon

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 717 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND

- ACROSS
1 Companion of Gog (5)
7 From the side (7)
8 Rebellious (7)
9 OT bank — Slope (*The Warden*) (7)
11 Idler: (US) soft shoc (6)
13 Composure of manner (4-5)
15 The Maid of Orleans (4,2,3)
19 List of charges (6)
21 Dog of unknown parentage (7)
23 Unpaid player (7)
24 Betrayal: fully-intended event (4-3)
25 Simple song; sailor's bag (5)
- DOWN
1 Inscribed metal as award (5)
2 Coarse laugh (6)
3 French wine: Robert —, poet (6)
4 High male voice (4)
5 —, I married him" (*Jane Eyre*) (6)
6 German Land, capital Munich (7)
10 Humphrey —, film actor (6)
12 Fund-raising lottery (6)
14 Rank above major (7)
16 Trifling fault, complaint (6)
17 Baseline's rumour (6)
18 Unspeaking (6)
20 Sudden excursion (5)
22 Behind time (4)

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Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 716
ACROSS: 1 Root 3 Psalmist 8 Faience 10 Allow 11 Roman candle 13 Fester 15 Besit 17 Bourgeoisie 20 Drift 21 Adding 22 Exercise 23 Prash
DOWN: 1 Rufraff 2 Odium 4 See-saw 5 Lo and behold 6 Illness 7 Town 9 Non sequitur 12 Strength 14 Sublime 16 Agast 18 Sligo 19 Edge

City plan great rock'n'roll signing

By DAVID MADDOCK

OASIS, the rock band at No 1 in the charts with their single *Don't Look Back in Anger*, are negotiating to become sponsors of Manchester City Football Club. If a deal is struck, then the most famous name in British popular music at present will be emblazoned across the front of the team's sky blue shirt.

Francis Lee, the chairman of Manchester City, confirmed yesterday that he held a meeting with Noel Gallagher, the band's songwriter and guitarist, last week. The football club is sponsored now by Brother, the electronics firm, but the £650,000-a-year contract is close to expiring.

Lee is conducting negotiations to secure a new deal and

although talks are continuing with Brother about a renewal of their contract, he revealed that he has also talked with Gallagher, whom he met last week. It is understood they discussed a package that will involve the band in a joint-sponsorship deal with another company that will see Oasis named as sponsors on the shirts.

"I met Noel Gallagher and we talked about sponsorship," Lee said. "We are talking with Brother, but it is no secret that there are other parties interested and we are talking to them as well. Noel seems interested in becoming involved and we welcome that."

The band members are diehard supporters of Manchester City. Gallagher and his brother, Liam, the

group's lead singer, come from Burnage, a suburb of Manchester, close to Moss Side, where the Maine Road stadium is situated. They recently opened City's new £6 million training complex and were delighted to find that an executive dining area was named The Oasis Suite.

Oasis have also announced two concerts at the club's Maine Road ground in April, with the 40,000 capacity selling out within hours of going on sale. They have been introduced on the pitch at Maine Road and regularly attend the club's home matches.

A spokesman for the band's record company, Creation Records, confirmed last night that their interest in sponsorship was born from their lifelong support of the

Manchester team. "They are big, big fans and it would be a big thrill to see their names on the shirts," he said.

It would also offer a strong financial incentive to Manchester City. With clever marketing, City football strips could be sold all around the world. Oasis are placed at No 3 in the American music charts and look likely to become the next English name to crack that market.

Manchester City are still heavily involved in negotiations with Brother, and were keen to stress last night that a deal could be struck with the electronics firm. If however, talks are not fruitful, then Oasis would follow the lead of Elton John, the pop singer who became chairman of Watford Football Club.

Skating world bids farewell to Grinkov

THE ice skating world gathered in Hartford, Connecticut, on Tuesday night to pay tribute to Sergei Grinkov, who died in November. Skaters from many parts of the globe performed in remembrance of Grinkov, who suffered a fatal heart attack while practising with his wife and partner, Ekaterina Gordeeva.

Many of the participants expressed their sadness at the end of a perfect partnership on and off the ice but Gordeeva, making her first appearance in public since her husband's death, spoke also of happiness. "I'm so happy this evening is happening," Gordeeva said after watching the all-star cast perform. "And I am so sad it is all over. I want to start it over again."

Gordeeva's own performance was the highlight of the night. "I want you to know I skated today not alone — I skated with Sergei," she said. "That is why I skated so good." Wearing a white and blue-grey dress, she began her programme, with her hand out, as if a partner were holding it. Suddenly, she stopped, covering her face. Then, hands out, as if

searching for her lost husband, she raced around the ice.

Many skaters paid their tributes with laughter. Scott Hamilton surprised the audience with his bell-bottoms, vest with peace symbols and a long, brown mane as he danced and pranced to songs from

Hair. With a routine set to a medley of Elvis Presley songs, Alexander Fadeev twirled around a white cowboy hat while Katarina Witt was bewitching with her Melissa Etheridge number and tight black shorts.

Ekaterina Gordeeva, who often competed in pairs against Grinkov and Gordeeva, performed a routine about two lovers who could not be together, set to Khachaturyan's Spartacus.

Some performers said their goodbyes one more time. During Paul Wylie's performance to the soundtrack of Apollo 13, he blew a kiss to the heavens. Dressed in a black, flowing skirt, Oksana Baiul ended her performance of Schubert's Ave Maria on her knees and placed her hands in a praying position. "He will be in my heart forever, like my guardian angel," she said.

Among those watching was the couple's three-year-old daughter, Daria, who applauded every skater in turn and, at the end of the evening, joined her mother on the ice with the skaters crowded around them.



Grinkov: tributes

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